

Hafa Adai!

Tinian doubly worried about CW issue. **PAGE 2**
AG: No case filed yet vs former police officer. **PAGE 3**

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MVA welcomes newly certified tour guides

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has welcomed a new batch of individuals yesterday who successfully com-

pleted the Marianas Guide Training at the Northern Marianas College early this month.

Nine individuals from Century Tours that will cater to Chinese tourists received their certification after

20 hours of class instruction that included CNMI history, CNMI geography, CNMI rules and regulations, principles of tour guiding/tour operations, tour guide customer service, tour guide safety and security, pro-



The Marianas Guide Training graduates from Century Tours receive their certificates at the Marianas Visitors Office yesterday. They are surrounded by MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, left, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, right, and Tour guide certification manager Kuen-Hee Han.

tecting the environment, and CNMI culture and legends.

Miao Wang, one of the graduates

of the Marianas Guide Training, said that she has been living on Saipan

See MVA on Page 4

BEA CABRERA

Torres hopeful on CW-1 reprieve

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres continues to pursue a reprieve on the 3,000-slot reduction of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, according to a statement made yesterday by his administration.

In a statement provided by press secretary Kevin Bautista, Torres continues to pursue a CW-1 reprieve with ongoing discussions with sev-

eral federal and local officers within the administration and "on the Hill."

"These discussions remain a top priority for Governor Torres as we



Torres

continue to address the ongoing labor issues that are not only limited to the CW cap, but also how we continue to develop our local work-

force," said the statement.

Reiterating the need to develop the local workforce, Bautista specified that the Torres administration has

been seeing "positive developments" on improving the workforce development from the homefront.

See TORRES on Page 4

Lawmakers discover flaw in CNMI Constitution

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Lawmakers over the weekend discovered a potential flaw in the language of the CNMI Constitution while discussing whether to pass a "renewal" or an "extension" of

leases for Bank of Guam and Construction Material Supply Inc.

In a joint session held last Friday afternoon at the House chamber on Capital Hill, a lengthy discussion surrounding whether to use the term "extension" or "renewal" for the expired leases of BankGuam Prop-

erties Inc. and CMS with both properties expiring last 2016, lawmakers argued that the term "renewal" was applicable since extensions are only applied to agreements that have yet to expire.

While Section XI, Article 5(c) of

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

Faced with a growing backlash, Steve Bannon released a statement Sunday reaffirming his support for President Donald Trump and praising Trump's eldest son as "both a patriot and a good man."

PAGE 15



WORLD

Syrian government forces and allied militiamen are advancing on the largest remaining rebel-held territory in the country's north.

PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE

The Golden Globes were transformed into an A-list expression of female empowerment in the post-Harvey Weinstein era. Oprah Winfrey led the charge.

PAGE 20



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Local

Tinian doubly worried about CW issue

By BEA CABRERA

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REPORTER

The CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program situation on Saipan is different on Tinian. If Saipan will be badly hit, imagine what will happen to economically struggling Tinian.

These were the words of JC Café manager Lot Bunao in a phone interview on what the Tinian community is doing to manage the 3,000-slot reduction of CW slots by the U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services in Fiscal Year 2018.

"First difference is we do not have the same access to USCIS like Saipan. Our application process for CW workers for example, experience delays because our mailing system is available only twice a week," she said.

"Second, we are not always online to check on USCIS revisions and updates. There are times that the USCIS language is confusing when they say the application is closed but also says that the deadline for submission of applications is on a later date," Bunao added.

Third, she said, business owners on Tinian do not have

the resources to fly directly to the office of USCIS in the mainland to submit applications in person.

"Ultimately, when Tinian starts losing CW workers, businesses will be greatly affected because the reality is, there are not a lot of people on Tinian to fill up the workforce need," she said.

"In terms of efforts, business operators have done their share of hiring U.S. citizens from the CNMI and as far as Hawaii. But when they hear they will work as a waitress, they decline the job offer," she added.

An example of a business that will be gravely hit is JC Café where Bunao works. The restaurant is considered a landmark on Tinian having been on business for 25 years and caters to locals and tourists. JC Café employs 70 percent CW-1 workers, people who have been with the restaurant for more than two decades.

"I was tasked by our good mayor, Joey Patrick San Nicolas, to organize and gather all the business owners and operators on Tinian whether they have CW-1 workers or not so that we could all agree on having a meeting about how the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JC Café manager Lot Bunao said the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program crisis on Tinian is worse than Saipan's as island businesses don't have the same resources as their counterparts on Saipan.

CW dilemma will impact the business community on Tinian and what to expect after 2019," Bunao said.

She said they have contacted Korean, Chinese, and Japanese tour agents to join and she is currently coordinating with the Marianas Visitors Authority and Susan Cruz of the Department of Commerce on Tinian so that they can be informed of this proposed meeting.

"This is the first time that such a meeting on a topic will happen on Tinian. It is definitely urgent," Bunao added.

In a separate interview, San Nicolas said he is looking at tomorrow, Jan., 10 to hold the meeting to be held at the Tinian Public Library at 6pm.

"Our target number of businesses is 20 and four businesses have already confirmed their attendance. I am continuously working to get the numbers up so everyone can be heard," she said.

"The business operators are more than willing to discuss the scenarios that we are facing. We feel the urgent need to do something about it and we know that nobody will do this for us," she added.

As a CW herself, Bunao said that despite the dilemma that CW-1 workers are facing on Tinian, the quality of their work is never compromised.

"We continue to work productively and take care of customer service for the community that we have grown to love. At JC Café, everyone knows us and even if we just hear someone's voice without looking, we know who that person is. That is an example how our lives have been anchored on this island over 14 years," she said.

Bunao said that the Tinian business community is not wasting any day to tackle the CW situation as this can affect them both temporarily and permanently.

"We are aware that this is a serious problem but we remain hopeful. After all we have been through here like the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino closure, price increases, commodity mark-ups, we survived it all. We hope the same for the CW situation," she said.

"Again, we only have few people on Tinian that is why every person matters here. The reality is, we all need each other," she added.

IPI: Brown will be missed

Mark A. Brown, chairman of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, has made the decision to retire from his current position to pursue other projects closer to his family in the mainland United States. His last working day for IPI CNMI was on Dec. 20, 2017.

As one of the most prominent and respected leaders in the gaming industry for over a quarter century, IPI said it is proud to have had Brown in its leadership team for the past three years. Brown's leadership and expertise were a major contribution to IPI's success.

Shortly after the completion of the Best Sunshine Live Temporary Casino in September 2015, Brown transitioned away from day-to-day operations to focus on fundraising, partnerships, and governmental relations. During those past two years of working closely with governments and local groups, Brown forged deep bonds within the CNMI community.

While Brown may be moving on from the Saipan project in a professional capacity, he will always remain



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mark A. Brown, former CEO and chairman of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, poses for the *Saipan Tribune* shortly after arriving on Saipan in November 2014.

a trusted friend and citizen of IPI and Saipan.

The IPI board said it would like to take this opportunity to

thank Brown once again for his commitment to the company, and wish him well in his future endeavors. (PR)

Torres signs SNILD bills into law



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs House Local Bills 20-43 and 20-46 into law with House vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), Rep. Alice S. Igitol (R-Saipan), and Rep. Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan).

On Monday, January 8, 2018, Governor Ralph DLG Torres signed into law the following bills:

■ House Local Bill 20-43, which appropriates \$18,865.39, allotted under Saipan Local Law 18-17 through Business Unit 4961P. Offered by Rep. Alice S. Igitol (R-Saipan) and House

vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), this bill becomes Saipan Local Law 20-17.

■ House Local Bill 20-46, which appropriates \$2,214,000 from the Exclusive Gaming Annual License Fees allotted to the Third Senatorial District (Saipan) under 4 CMC § 2307(c)(2).

Offered by Reps. es Francisco C. Aguon (R-Saipan), Donald C. Barcinas (R-Saipan), Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Alice S. Igitol, and Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan), this bill becomes Saipan Local Law 20-18. (PR)

AG: No case filed yet vs former police officer

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

No charges have been filed against Jaimie Omengkar after her younger brother, Kody Omengkar, shot himself and another brother, Kory Omengkar, while playing with the former police officer's firearm.

According to chief prosecutor Michelle Harris in a statement to media last Friday, the Attorney General's Office has not made any final determination on Jaimie Omengkar's case.

Department of Public Safety public information officer Jackie Rae said that no administrative investigation was conducted on Jaimie Omengkar as she resigned immediately after the incident.

"We can only conduct investigations into DPS employees. Since she (Omengkar) resigned immediately, we cannot take any action against her," she said.

"That does not mean that the AG's office cannot. However, at this time, I am unaware if they are pursuing legal actions," she added.

According to Klyde Camacho, who was the driver, the three were at Jaimie Omengkar's home in San Roque on Dec. 21 when Klyde Omengkar asked to borrow her car to get something to eat.

Camacho, along with Kory and Kody, drove to Twin's Supermarket in Dandan to buy food and left. A few seconds after getting into Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Camacho heard a loud bang inside the car and saw Kory holding the left side of his chest, saying his back is feeling numb.

Kory sustained a two-and-a-half inch laceration on the left side of his chest as a result of the gunshot wound. He is now in stable condition. Kody was treated for his injuries but was later discharged.

Kody's recollection of events started with the three

of them leaving San Roque to buy food at Twin's Supermarket. He picked up Jamie Omengkar's police-issued belt on the floor to place it

on the seat before disengaging the thumb safety of the weapon holster and pulling out the weapon.

Kody admitted playing

with the gun and pulling the trigger several times. He said that Klyde and Kory became mad at him for touching the weapon so he put it back in

the holster.

However, after leaving Twin's Supermarket, Kody said he pulled the trigger again, causing the weapon to

discharge. The bullet grazed his leg and shot into the back of his brother, Kory, who was seated in the front passenger seat.

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Saipan Tribune

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\$1.27M appropriation measure for Tinian passed

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A bill that seeks to appropriate over \$1.27 million from the annual Casino License fee now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres after it was unanimously passed yesterday.

The Tinian and Aguiguan

Legislative Delegation unanimously passed yesterday Rep. Edwin Aldan's (R-Tinian) House Local Bill 20-44, which re-appropriates over \$1.27 million from the annual casino license fee to various programs of Tinian.

The Department of Finance pursuant to Public

Law 20-10, identified \$2 million of the \$15 million annual license renewal fee for the sole casino on Saipan available for appropriation for local purposes.

According to P.L. 20-10, \$2 million is set aside for Rota while the remaining goes to Saipan.

"We are very pleased to at least get a portion of [the annual casino license fee] this time and to fund many of the operations and personnel [needs] of the municipality of Tinian," said Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who also serves as chair of the delegation.

"We are very grateful that we are able to continue funding some of the social programs, youth programs, and other elements of social services that [has been offered over the years], so we are pleased with that," he added.

More than half of the appro-

priation, or exactly \$614,563, is allocated toward the payrolls of the Tinian Mayor's Office personnel, the Tinian Municipal Treasurer personnel, and the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission personnel. The amount covers the salaries until the end of fiscal year 2018.

"We initially received partial funding which would be used up [this coming February 2018], so what H.L.B. 20-44 does is if enacted, it would provide us the necessary funding to pay our personnel up to the end of the fiscal year 2018," said Tin-

ian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, adding that several sports programs along with health and wellness programs were also funded by the appropriation.

"We are very happy with the outcome of this bill," he said.

Initially, the \$1.27 million was supposedly appropriated toward the payment of 25 percent of retiree's pension for Tinian residents. Since the passage of P.L. 20-10 in late September 2017, retiree pensions would be obtained from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax collections.

\$2.5K bail for William Indalecio Jr.

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

A man has been ordered to post \$2,500 bail after being charged with disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, assault and battery, and domestic violence during a bail hearing last Friday in Superior Court.

William Indalecio Jr. wasn't able to post bail and was remanded back to the Department of Corrections.

Indalecio Jr.'s preliminary hearing is set on Jan. 17, 2014 at 9am. Next appearance is set on Jan. 22 at 9am.

Last Jan. 4 police officer Joel Ignacio responded to a 911 call at about 8:47pm and found the victim at the entrance of of Achive Lane in Finasisu. Ignacio learned from the victim that on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at about 8:40pm she was home and heard a loud knock at the front door.

The victim was with her

children and her ex-husband who was visiting at that time.

She opened the door and saw her ex-husband and suspect, William Indalecio Jr., standing outside the screen door.

Indalecio Jr. was instructed by the victim to leave but the former attempted to open her screen door that was locked. He then went to the back side of her vehicle and tried to break the rear windshield wiper.

The victim opened the screen door and told him to stop and at this time, Indalecio Jr. came toward her, grabbed her hair with his right hand, and slapped the victim on her right cheek with his left hand. The victim cried for neighbors help and asked to call 911.

Last Jan. 4, Ignacio returned to the crime scene and met the 911 caller, the ex-husband of the victim, at Mango Apartment in Finasisu.

The ex-husband stated

that he came to the apartment to visit his cousin which is the victim's neighbor. The victim invited him to go inside and spend time with his children.

While inside the bedroom with his children, the ex-husband heard a knock on the bedroom window and told the victim. When the victim opened the door he heard Indalecio Jr. shouting curse words.

When the ex-husband saw the victim inside, she was crying while holding her right cheek and messy hair as if someone pulled it.

He asked what happened and the victim responded that Indalecio Jr. slapped her and pulled her hair. Instead of going outside to fight with Indalecio Jr., he decided to call 911 for police assistance.

The bail hearing was held at the courtroom of Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan.

about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota because our responsibility is to give the right and correct information to the tourists. The learning does not stop after the training because I plan to continue to study more about the islands," she added.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion is very grateful that the tour guide certification classes have been rolling out as planned.

"We are happy that the tour guides have been coming into the program, into the system, getting registered and certified so that they will be able to

provide the quality experience that our tourists deserve and expect when they come to the Marianas," he said.

"Aside from Century Tours, many tour guide operators are getting certified such as PMT, Tasi Tours group, Hana Tour, Mode Tour, STI, and many others. A lot of them are certified and some of them are registered and waiting for their turn at NMC," he added.

Classes began in October 2017 and currently classes are conducted four days a week, five hours a day,

"NMC has a full comple-

ment of excellent instructors who we are confident will help raise the caliber of tour guides in the Marianas and, in doing so, help build upon our reputation as a premiere destination," Concepcion said.

"NMC and MVA will definitely continue to work closely tog to further the objectives of the program," he added.

The Marianas Guide Training certification is valid for three years unless revoked or suspended, but the badge would need to be renewed every year.

act of U.S. Congress.

Upon learning of the reduction, Torres sped on to Washington, D.C. to negotiate a reprieve as well as discuss the extension of the CW-1 program. Alongside was the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., a collection of representatives of local businesses that are for the CW-1 program to keep the uprising CNMI economy afloat.

NMBAC, led by chair Alex Sablan, accompanied Torres along with several other members of the organization to negotiate the terms of the CW-1 extension, which could only be achieved through an act of U.S. Congress.

act of U.S. Congress.

act of U.S. Congress.

act of U.S. Congress.

Coast Guard seeks mariner input for Pacific Seacoast study

coastWAMS

The survey will be available until March 31, 2018.

In addition to the survey input, the system-wide study will cover international requirements, environmental concerns, user capabilities, available technology and available resources.

The study is part of the U.S. Coast Guard's Future of Navigation initiative, the multi-year effort to analyze, optimize and modernize the navigation systems that safely guide millions of mariners and trillions of trade into U.S. ports.

"This WAMS study will

help us to tailor our Aids to Navigation levels of service to better meet the needs of mariners across the Pacific Seacoast System," said Cmdr. Justin Kimura, the chief of the Navigation Technology and Risk Management Division in the Coast Guard Office of Navigation Systems.

Managed by the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Navigation Systems and maintained by Coast Guard buoy tenders and ATON teams around the nation, Aids to Navigation help mariners to determine their position, chart a safe course and steer clear of hazards. **(PR)**

MVA

From Page 1

for 18 years, but the training made her realize there is more to learn about the islands.

"I used to work at DFS and working in the tourism industry is not really new to me but this is definitely a new and exciting challenge. Today, we got our tour guide license badge and I am happy to be a part of the Century Tours family," she said.

"The training helped me know a lot of information

TORRES

From Page 1

"There have been positive developments made here locally on the workforce development front, as the CNMI Department of Labor, the CNMI Scholarship Office, our NAP Work Registration program and our other government agencies are closely collaborating and coordinating with small and large businesses to put people in jobs," the statement said, recognizing that there was "a lot of work that still needs to be done".

"...The administration remains committed to ensuring we follow through on our cur-

rent workforce development initiatives, while continuing our advocacy for solutions to the CW program both within this fiscal year and for the long term," concluded the statement.

Scrambling for breathing room, the CNMI has been recently struck with a 3,000-cap reduction by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services last Nov. 2017, effectively bringing down the much-needed CW-1 slot numerical cap to 9,998 for fiscal year 2018. According to USCIS, the sudden drop in slots was made in preparation for the expiry of the CW-1 program, which is as of writing slated for Dec. 31, 2019.

For fiscal years 2015 to

2017, the CW-1 cap has been reduced by only one, and has been consecutively capped during the duration of those fiscal years.

The CW-1 program was established as Public Law 110-229 was enacted, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, or the CNRA. The CNRA established the federalization of the CNMI and took over its immigration in the process. Initially, the expiry of the CW-1 program was scheduled at Dec. 31, 2014, however it was extended through the discretionary authority of the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary to extend, which was later on removed through an

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

the CNMI Constitution provides that foreign lease holders are only allowed to lease land for 25 years plus an additional 15 granted it is with the blessing of three-fourths of the Legislature in a joint session, the language of the article specifically mentioned both "renewal" and "extension," causing conflict.

"The corporation may not transfer a leasehold interest in public lands that exceeds twenty-five years including renewal rights. An extension of not more than fifteen years may be given upon approval by three-fourths of the members of the legislature."

A representative of the Attorney General's Office assigned to the Department of Public Lands opined that the Attorney General Edward Manibusan might not sign a resolution passed by the Legislature since technically, "extension" pertains to prolonging an agreement that has yet to expire. For both BankGuam and CMS' cases, the lease term of 25 years have already expired.

If the Legislature opts to support a "renewal," then it might seem that they support a repeat of the 25-year initial

period of the lease.

According to the CNMI Constitution, a lease may only be held for a maximum of 40 years.

As discussions between the lawmakers commenced, Rep. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) suggested an amendment to replace "renewal" with "extension" for the joint resolution pertaining to both companies. Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) suggested otherwise, citing DPL's legal counsel opinion that Manibusan might not sign off on the resolution if the term "extension" was used.

Ultimately, the Legislature agreed not to amend both resolutions after an hour of discussions on the language of both resolutions and unanimously supported both companies.

Specifically, BankGuam is seeking to lease the parking area of Bank of Guam while CMS is seeking to lease their lot in Kannat Tabla.

A third resolution, which was drafted to support the extension of IT&E, was held back since Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) did not support the resolution due to a conflict in the terms. According to Igitol, she would first review the contract while House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) urges her to expedite the review.

KagHS alumna earns masters degree



CONTIBUTED PHOTO

Sara Kapileo Techur poses with sons Caden, left, and Keagan at her graduation held in Tusculum College in Greenville Tennessee.

By **BEA CABRERA**
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sara Kapileo Techur, a product of Kagman High School, grew up to be a woman of substance as seen in her pursuit of finishing her master's degree in education and human resources development with honors.

Techur acquired her post-graduate degree from Tusculum College in Greenville, Tennessee with 4.0 GPA. Her pre-master's degree was Psychology-Behavioral Health.

"I'm a guidance type of person and I like helping others by giving advice, teaching, and listening to all types of problems. I say problems because problems can be solved and to do that accordingly, is to set by example," she said.

"A master's degree is often

necessary to secure a profession and advance within some fields. To me, a master's degree is a permission to lead others the right direction. My master's degree is the framework for helping people develop their personal and organizational skills, knowledge, and abilities," she said.

As determined as she is with her studies, the same can be said about her being a single mother. Techur has two boys, 12 and 9 years old, and has worked full-time while studying for her master's degree.

"My main audience would be single parents, but of course my message can be delivered in general. I would tell a single mother or father to take a challenge and further their education because education gives an oppor-

tunity to build a foundation and stepping stones for their children to follow," she said.

"Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone. In some cases, out here in the states a bachelor's degree isn't enough anymore, so a master's degree is often necessary to secure a profession and advance within some fields," she added.

Tusculum College instructor Dr. Jeff Burleson said that in an online accelerated Masters Degree program, dis-

cipline, motivation, and self-direction are required characteristics of students who wish to succeed.

"Ms. Sara Techur is an excellent example of a student with these characteristics. Her attention to detail and critical thinking skills were significant to her successful completion of the Master Degree in Talent Development at Tusculum College," she said.

"It is an absolute pleasure working with students who are as dedicated, hardwork-

ing, and reliable as Ms. Techur," he added.

Dr. Raymond Hatfield from the same college shares Burleson's experience with Techur.

"I can say that it has been a pleasure to work with her through a long and arduous program. Not only has Sara been an exceptional student, I predict a bright and successful career for her after completing this program of study at Tusculum University," he said.

Techur plans to go back to the CNMI in the future

and share the experience and knowledge that she has acquired over the years.

"If time permits I do plan to continue my higher education and retrieve a Ph.D. in education. I plan to gain and expand my experiences out here in the states first to better equip myself as an educator to others," she said.

"Of course, going home to Saipan would be an option in the near future, but as for now, I am still building to be a resource for others," she added.

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Teens arrested for assault and battery

An incident happened at Marianas High School last Dec. 21 involving two students attacking another male student.

According to Department of Public Safety public information officer Jackie Rae, the assailants were arrested and charged with assault and battery.

The report stated that on Dec. 21, 2017 a male student was walking with his girlfriend when he was suddenly punched in the face by the first

assailant and fell.

While the victim was on the ground, another assailant started kicking the victim.

The girlfriend was able to break the attack, immediately led the victim to the bathroom and went out to get help.

The victim could not identify the suspects, but the girlfriend and other witnesses identified and named the two assailants.

The victim suffered a broken jaw. **(Bea Cabrera)**

Lower life insurance premiums for govt employees, retirees

Following the decrease in costs for health insurance premiums, government employees and retirees will experience lower costs in life insurance premiums while maintaining the same life insurance coverage.

Secretary of Finance Larrisa Larson shares that the 2018 life insurance policy will show a six percent decrease.

"Much like the recent decrease in our government health insurance premium, we have worked to decrease costs of enrolling in our life insurance program. Governor

Torres expressed that the administration continues to work towards making health insurance as well as life insurance more affordable for our employees as we work towards raising our wages to match state-side levels. We are pleased that the cost is lowering while the benefits remain the same and look forward to offering improved options moving forward," Larson said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres added that the decreasing cost

of insurance policies is a small step toward improving the government Group Health and Life Insurance program.

"A decrease in costs, especially in terms of the government's health and life insurance is beneficial for everyone on the program. We are happy that our government employees and retirees will be saving a little more. In the recent past, I mentioned that more changes are needed to

address enrollment costs and healthcare needs so we are still looking at our options. I thank Secretary Larson and her team for their diligence in searching for more viable plans for our government," Torres said.

Secretary Larson said there are two decreases: one for active (bi-weekly allotment) and the other for retirees (semi-monthly allotment).

"For active employees the rates actually decreased from \$0.75 per \$1,000 to \$0.70 per \$1,000. For retirees, the decrease is from \$0.81 per \$1,000 to \$0.76 per \$1,000.

The basic life insurance coverage for retirees remains at 1.8 times the reduced pension, which is 75 percent of annual income, rounded up to the nearest \$1,000, and not to exceed \$90,000 with a minimum benefit of \$5,000. Active employees will continue to be covered at 1.8 times their base salary rounded to the near-

est \$1,000 and not to exceed \$90,000," she added.

The decrease in premiums will be effective February 1, 2018.

For those interested in making changes to their policies or for more information on the Government Group Health and Life Insurance, call 664-1100. (PR)



Larson

Oliver Berry completes at-sea fisheries enforcement patrol off Hawaii

HONOLULU—The crew of Coast Guard Cutter *Oliver Berry* (WPC 1124), a 154-foot Fast Response Cutter homeported in Honolulu, recently completed a 10-day patrol of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the Hawaiian Islands region. They conducted six boardings on Hawaii-based, U.S.-flagged long-line fishing vessels and issued eight safety and fisheries regulations violations.

"*Oliver Berry* is ideally suited for challenging offshore conditions in the Main Hawaiian Islands. The crew performed admirably in the heavy seas we encountered and when launching and recovering our standardized small boats from the stern to conduct boardings. We are specifically designed for several missions including search and rescue and fisheries enforcement. We greatly improve the Coast Guard's on water presence with more range and operational hours

over our predecessor, the 110-foot patrol boats," said Lt. Kenneth Franklin, commanding officer, *Oliver Berry*.

Oliver Berry's crew enforced fishery regulations in the region, to ensure the estimated \$7 billion industry, which provides more than half of the global tuna commercial catch, remains sustainable. Boarding teams also ensured crews are in compliance with federal and state regulations regarding all required life-saving equipment. Citations were issued when applicable, requiring master's to correct discrepancies. This is a critical role in the Coast Guard's mission to preserve a natural resource, highly migratory fish stocks, essential to the fishermen and economy of not only the United States, but many Pacific nations.

On Dec. 19, while conducting a boarding of a U.S.-flagged longline fishing vessel, the boarding team sus-

pected a foreign national was acting as the vessel captain and operating the vessel. The operation of a U.S.-flagged commercial fishing vessel by a foreign national is illegal. After an investigation, the vessel was cited for the alleged manning violation also known as a paper captain and the evidence was forwarded to the Coast Guard Hearing Office for further review and possible legal action. The penalty for operating with a paper captain once their documentation has been voided is a civil fine of up to \$15,000 per day.

The *Oliver Berry* crew also hosted several members of the Hawaii County government and the Hilo-based Navy League during a port visit in Hilo. The crew showcased the capabilities of the cutter's 26-foot over-the-horizon small boat and advanced command and control electronics to demonstrate how the newest Fast Response Cutter will

benefit Hawaii County, while based in Honolulu.

"We all enjoyed engaging with our local government partners in Hilo and explaining how our cutter can assist in future search and rescue or law enforcement cases near the Big Island. Our goal is always to build stronger relationships between all our partners throughout the state," said Lt. J.G. Peter Driscoll, executive officer, Cutter *Oliver Berry*.

Oliver Berry is designed for multiple missions, including law enforcement and search and rescue. *Oliver Berry* has advanced seakeeping abilities and can achieve speeds in excess of 28 knots, with an endurance of five days.

For more information about *Oliver Berry*, contact District 14 Public Affairs at 808-535-3230 or Oliver Berry's public affairs officer at Peter.M.Driscoll@uscg.mil. (PR)

Grundfos appoints new head for its Asia Pacific region

SINGAPORE—Leading pump manufacturer Grundfos has announced the appointment of Kim Jensen to the role of group senior vice president and regional managing director of Grundfos Asia Pacific region with effect from January 1, 2018.

In his new role, Kim will lead the company's business across 22 countries including 13 wholly-owned sales companies and local assembly plants Grundfos operates in the region. He will also be spearheading opportunities for the company's development and expansion in Asia Pacific.

Prior to his Asia Pacific role, Kim was group senior vice president and regional managing director for the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) markets since 2015, where he oversaw 2,800 employees in areas of sales, marketing and customer service.


Kim has been with Grundfos for more than 25 years, working across Europe and the Middle East. Having held numerous senior management positions within Grundfos, Kim assumed the role of

group senior vice president in 2006, where he was in charge of developing Grundfos' global Water Utility business, after which he served the Central and Eastern Europe (CEREG) markets in 2010.

Poul Due Jensen, group executive vice president Sales, Marketing & Service, Grundfos said, "I'm looking forward to working with Kim to continue growing our business in the Asia Pacific. Over the years, Kim has done a fantastic job leading his team and building a strong sales approach for the EMEA markets. We are excited to bring his extensive experience and deep understanding of managing businesses in dynamic markets to this growing region."

Kim succeeds Okay Barutcu, who held the role since 2014 and will be moving to Dubai to take the role of senior vice president and regional managing director of Grundfos East Europe, Western Asia and Africa (EEWAA) markets. EEWAA is a newly defined sales region together with Western Europe (WEREG), which made up the original EMEA markets before the split effective 1 January 2018 to support Grundfos' global growth ambition.

Grundfos is a global leader in advanced pump solutions and a trendsetter in water technology. The company contributes to global sustainability by pioneering technologies that improve quality of life for people and care for the planet. Grundfos Singapore Pte Ltd (Grundfos Singapore) incorporated in 1984 is the regional headquarters of the company for the Asia Pacific Region. It is also directly responsible for sales of Grundfos products in Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Grundfos Singapore provides energy efficient pumps and smart pumping solutions for various applications across diverse segments including domestic & commercial buildings, industries, water utilities (water & wastewater management) and pumps running on renewable energy. For more information about Grundfos Singapore visit: www.grundfos.sg. (PR)



Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 18-002

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A NEW FILTRATION SYSTEM

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of a NEW AQUATIC FILTRATION EQUIPMENT.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2017 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 19, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-002 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2016-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges



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INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 18-003

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR CREES SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN STATIONS

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of NEW COMPUTER SYSTEMS for CREES Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2017 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-003 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2016-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.	:	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff	:	NO. 11-0131
vs.	:	
LUCIA BORJA PALACIOS	:	
Defendant	:	

SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of defendant in and to the following property: Lot NO. 2018-2-5, situated in As Teo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1 having plane rectangular coordinates of 53,203.65 meters north and 66,755.91 meters east of the Mariana Islands district coordinate system of 1956.

Thence N 13° 35' 00" E, 13.18 meters to Corner 3;

Thence S 80° 13' 00" E, 65.95 to Corner 4;

Thence S 09° 47' 00" E, 28.85 meters to Corner 5;

Thence N 80° 13' 00" W, 66.53 meters to Corner 1; the point of beginning.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 2, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd of January, 2018:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



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Let's prevent human trafficking in the CNMI

January 2018 is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, as declared by President Trump on Dec. 29, 2017.

"Human traffickers prey on their victims by promising a life of hope and greater opportunity, while delivering only enslavement," Trump said. Human trafficking is about exploitation of people for sex or labor. It is a global problem, with complex schemes and lucrative incentives.

"We're doing things this month," said Lauri Ogu-moro, "to keep the focus on combatting human trafficking in the CNMI."

Government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, the CNMI Department of Labor, the Division of Public Health of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Department of Public Safety, and Public School System, along with community organizations that include Karidat, Micronesian Legal Services Corp., and Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law, and the faith community are active participants in the CNMI's Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition.

The coalition is also reaching out to the business community to forge important partnerships in preventing sex and labor exploitation. It encourages everyone in the CNMI to make a special effort this month to join in the fight against human trafficking.

"The CNMI has made progress in its fight against



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The poster commemorating National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month this January.

human trafficking," said Eric O'Malley of the U.S. Attorney's Office. "The CNMI used to be listed as a hotspot in the State Department's annual report. We've improved, but we need to be vigilant because human trafficking still occurs here."

The CNMI has improved identification of potential trafficking victims and stepped up enforcement with successful prosecutions for sex trafficking and labor exploitation.

The coalition has plans for 2018 to continue its efforts at heightened identification through trainings of medical professionals and other first

responders. This goal mirrors the goal of government agencies to strengthen the healthcare industry's anti-trafficking response.

"Everyone can contribute to the solution," said Jane Mack of MLSC. "What each member of the community can do to combat human trafficking is participate, donate, and read."

Participate

The human trafficking coalition is asking everyone to wear blue on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018, Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Take photos of yourself, your family, your friends, your co-workers, all

wearing blue, and post on social media with hashtags: #WearBlueDay, #EndTrafficking, #CNMISolidarity.

People can also participate by watching the coalition on the news on Jan. 10, and by watching for public service announcements on television, and listening for them on the radio. Talk about the problem.

Donate

Members of the community can donate to any of the private organizations participating in anti-human trafficking activities (Karidat, MLSC, POHL) or to your faith community, with a special request that your donation be used for anti-trafficking activities.

Read

There are books, both fiction and non-fiction, to read about human trafficking. There are articles online. There are videos to watch. The coalition urges everyone to look for them, and read-up to be informed about the problems and the solutions. The following are a starting point, but the coalition encourages everyone to explore information about human trafficking.

Some books to read are *Sold* by Patricia McCormick, *The Berlin Turnpike* by Raymond Bechard, and *Life Interrupted* by Denise Brennan.

Available online articles include "My Family's Slave" in the Atlantic, <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/06/1olas-story/524490/> and "Labor Trafficking in the US: a Closer Look at Temporary Work Visas" at Polaris, <http://po->

larisproject.org/sites/default/files/Temp%20Visa_v5%20%281%29.pdf.

Interesting videos include the TED Talk by Noy Thrupkaew, https://www.ted.com/talks/noy_thrupkaew_human_trafficking_is_all_around_you_this_is_how_it_works and The Five Disguises of Traffickers, by CNN Freedom Project,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uPTzhbBmPU>.

Human trafficking is the opposite of respect for freedom and civil rights. The awareness and prevention campaign ends on Feb. 1, 2018, National Day of Freedom. The coalition will continue working so that every day can be a national day of freedom for all in the CNMI. (PR)

Corpuz graduates with top honors



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Magdiel Job Alarcon Corpuz graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in Business Administration degree from Eastern Oregon University.

Twenty-one-year-old Magdiel Job Alarcon Corpuz from Saipan graduated last Dec. 8, 2017 from Eastern Oregon University.

He completed a bachelor of science in Business Administration degree with a marketing concentration as summa cum laude, the highest honors.

One of the Top 10 students in the 2014 graduating class of Marianas High School, Corpuz was previously involved with the CNMI PSS AmeriCorps Program, Rotary Interact Club, and the

Youth Advisory Panel.

Currently, Corpuz is employed in the local workforce and hopes to build a business start-up in the near future.

Eastern Oregon University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE), and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Corpuz is the son of Magtanggol H. Corpuz and Jocelyn A. Corpuz from the village of Fina Sisu. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 9, 2001

Teno shoots down 'shooting resort' bill

Amid concerns over safety of the islands to both residents and tourists, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday vetoed legislation seeking to ease tough gun control law in the CNMI to cater to so-called "shooting resorts" proposed by Korean investors. He said he could not compromise public safety over economic benefit of the measure despite assurances by proponents that use of these high-caliber weapons would be tightly guarded and restricted within the proposed resorts. Mr. Tenorio emphasized his disapproval in allowing proliferation of firearms in the Commonwealth as he noted the strong opposition raised by various sectors in the community against HB 12-212.

Creation of tobacco settlement trust account pushed

The House of Representatives is expected to vote by this week on the measure establishing a special account to keep money received by the CNMI under the multi-billion dollar tobacco settlement agreement. Health and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Malua T. Peter, author of HB 12-290, said the government needs the legislation to set aside the payments remitted to the islands every year for future appropriation. Ms. Peter, along with Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, met last

week with Finance Sec. Lucy DLG Nielsen to inquire what happened to the more than \$800,000 already given to the CNMI since 1999. The Saipan legislator earlier had expressed concern that while the initial payments have yet been appropriated, the government has already spent the funds.

January 9, 2005

PSS official hopes no more repeat of fiscal problem

Education commissioner Rita Hocog Inos hopes there will be no repeat of the fiscal crisis that threatened to shut down the Commonwealth's public school system this week. Meeting with public school principals at the PREL Service Center at the Marianas High School Friday, Inos said she was happy that the government was able to avert the shutdown but at the same time decried being nearly forced into the situation. Inos also noted that, if PSS was not able to secure the funds Friday, it would have no recourse but to cancel the resumption of classes set for tomorrow, Jan. 11. Inos also appealed to the principals to be more understanding as she reiterated to them their roles are very vital in the delivery of services to their students.

TSA: Plans afoot to federalize Tinian airport

The Transportation Security Administration is developing a plan to federalize and prepare the Tinian airport for international flights. Plans are underway to staff the airport with federal screeners and equip it with a walk-through metal detector and a baggage X-ray unit, among other security machines, said interim TSA-Saipan federal security director Stanford Miyamoto. Once the plan is in place, the local TSA office will submit it to its Washington, D.C. headquarters for approval and processing,

Miyamoto said. While he declined to give a specific time frame for the process, Miyamoto said the federal agency will try to complete the airport federalization "as soon as possible."

January 9, 2012

Businesses, groups volunteer for JA program

Local businesses and organizations have expressed support for the CNMI Public School System's Junior Achievement Company Program. Program coordinator Carline B. Sablan said yesterday that several companies and groups have volunteered to be in charge of teaching and training high school students for the program, which aims to cultivate work-readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy through practical or hands-on experience. She disclosed that Phillip Mendiola-Long of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce will be responsible for participants from Tinian High School while the Rotary Club of Saipan is in charge of Marianas High School.

Delegation approves \$3M for Tinian's FY 2012 budget

The Tinian and Aguihan Legislative Delegation passed a \$3 million municipal budget for fiscal year 2012 that includes \$527,000 for public programs such as \$160,000 in retroactive pay for over 100 government employees and no work hour cuts for covered personnel, during a session that lasted around 10pm on Thursday. Tinian lawmakers originally set aside only \$80,000 for the retroactive pay but later doubled the amount. Delegation members spent days finalizing the budget bill and held a session until late Thursday night to pass it. The local budget bill is now with the Tinian Municipal Council chaired by Patrick A. Manglona, before heading to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

Vehicle submerged in Achang Preserve

SANTA RITA, Guam—On Jan. 7 Coast Guard Sector Guam was notified by the Guam Police Department and Guam Environmental Protection Agency of a vehicle in the water between Merizo and Inarajan.

Sector Guam worked with Guam EPA and the Inarajan Mayor's Office to mitigate any environmental damage and ensure the vehicle could be removed safely.

Sector Guam initiated the funding for con-

tractors to remove the threat of pollution from the waterway. Contracted companies placed oil absorbent barriers around the vehicle as commercial divers prepared the vehicle for removal.

The vehicle was safely removed from the water on Jan. 8 and towed away for recycling. The unified efforts of the multiple agencies involved ensured a timely and seamless removal process of the vehicle, reducing environmental damage. **(PR)**



MST3 ERIC WEIL/U.S. COAST GUARD

On Jan. 7 U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam was notified by the Guam Police Department and Guam Environmental Protection Agency of a vehicle in the water between Merizo and Inarajan.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Thursday is #WearBlueDay

Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Please wear blue! Take photos. Post on social media with hashtags: #WearBlueDay, #EndTrafficking, #CNMISolidarity.

Career and Technical Education Program open house this Saturday

The CNMI Public School System will have an open house for its Career and Technical Education Program this Saturday, Jan. 13.

The public is invited to view materials and provide feedback/comments for the Career and Technical Education Program instructional materials for review by PSS.

The open house will be held from 10am to 3pm on three locations Tanapag Middle School Room F-3 (Saipan), Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School Library (Rota), and Tinian Junior Senior High School Library (Tinian).

Access to Feedback/Comments online form: <https://goo.gl/forms/8Z2ZHE2FycvhgJPG3>.

For more information, contact CNMI PSS CTE education specialist Jessica Taylor, Ed.D. at jessica.taylor@cnmipss.org or associate commissioner of Curriculum and Instruction, Jackie Quitugua at jackie.quitugua@cnmipss.org. **(PR)**

Torres signs HB 20-09 into law

On Friday, Jan. 5, 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law House Bill 20-09, which requires all scuba dive shop operators to impose a \$10 surcharge per tank usage to purchase, install, operate, and maintain decompression chambers in the CNMI. Authored by Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, this bill becomes Public Law 20-36. **(PR)**

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 10, from 8:30am to 6pm
- Jan. 11, from 10:30am to 3:30pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 10, from 8:30am to 6pm
- Jan. 11, from 10:30am to 3:30pm
- Jan. 12, from 11am to 3pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. **(PR)**

USS America visits Guam

ASAN, Guam—Sailors and Marines from the amphibious assault ship USS *America* and 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit will vol-

unteer at the following events during a port call to Guam this week.

■ **Oceanview Middle School:** Volunteers will give class presentations about their careers and participate in Chamorro class lessons with students, among other activities, on Jan. 8, from 12:30pm to 4pm.

■ **Catholic Social Service Adult Day Care:** Volunteers will visit the center to interact with and participate in light exercises and arts and craft activities with elderly clients on Jan. 9, from 12:30pm to 4pm.

■ **Piti:** Volunteers will be asked to assist the village mayor's staff with a coastal cleanup and interact with the village's senior citizens on Jan. 11, from 12:30pm to 4pm.

America is the flagship of the America Amphibious Readiness Group, and with the embarked 15th MEU and Amphibious Squadron 3, is currently conducting maritime security operations and supporting theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. **(PR)**

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Registered Nurse: (04)

- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing
- At least three to six years' experience
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Front Office Manager: (01)

- At least over six years experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD 9, coding of medical procedures and diagnosis
- College graduate
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Must be certified pharmacy technician
- Must be proficient in computer skills, spreadsheet and general accounting skills.

Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician: (02)

- At least six years experience or related field
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiology Technology
- Must be over six years experience in electronic health and practice partner records
- Experience/knowledge with practice partner software in electronic health records usage
- Licensed by Medical Professional Licensing Board, CNMI

General Yard Maintenance: (01)

- At least two years preferred skills and experience
- Experience in assisting in building construction/renovation
- Maintaining the interior and exterior of the clinic in a neat and orderly condition
- Maintaining of plants in transplanting and fertilizing
- Assist in cleaning of clinic air conditionings
- Be flexible in assisting in other related maintenance duties
- Be flexible with time schedule

Healthcare Clinic System Manager: (01)

- Minimum of three to five years of work related skills, knowledge or experience
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintain all of company computer systems to include computer hardware, software, computer network and advance server skills
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system
- Building maintenance repair, electronic records and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application or resume will be on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 9:30AM** at the BECC 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of December 5th, 2017 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Project: SAIPAN VEGAS & E-GAMING PROJECT – MP Holdings, LLC is constructing two modular 2-story hotel buildings with 50 units. The project includes an existing commercial building with a café, an E-Gaming facility and an additional 90 parking stalls, 4 ADA parking and 2 bus stalls. The project is located in Chalan Laulau on Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-098

- a) Final Discussions, Comments, and/or Questions
- b) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Final Determination*

B. Project: GUALO RAI OFFICE PARK – The Marianas Management Corporation is proposing to construct the Gualo Rai Office Park on the corner of Chalan Pale Arnold and Gualo Rai Road in the Lower Gualo Rai area. The planned development includes two office buildings and a new U.S. District Courthouse building. The business park includes 254 total parking spaces.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-0008

- a) Final Discussions, Comments, and/or Questions
- b) CRM Permit Application Status, *Final Determination*

C. Project: GUALO RAI TOWNHOUSES – The Arcadia Partners, LLC is proposing to construct eight pre-fabricated two to three story 3-bedroom townhouses in the Gualo Rai area. The development includes two parking spaces for each unit (total of 16 parking spaces), swimming pools, landscaping, and sidewalks.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-011

- c) Final Discussions, Comments, and/or Questions
- d) CRM Permit Application Status, *Final Determination*

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

As much as we love to hate air travel, flying is safer than ever

Everyone gripes about air travel. The complaints are universal: bare-it-all security checks; shoving matches over cabin bin space; economy seats increasingly reminiscent of a miniature medieval torture cell maliciously called the “little ease.”

Oh, for those glamorous jet-set days of yesteryear, when fliers were treated like royalty starting at airport curbside. Can modern air travel really be called an improvement?

Yes, in the starkest and most critical terms: You’ll get there in one piece. Year’s-end reports show 2017 was the safest year for commercial travel in aviation history.

Studies by two separate safety organizations—a team of Dutch aviation consultants and the U.S.-based Aviation Safety Network—reported this week that, out of a record 37 million flights, there were no passenger jet crashes in the world last year. The handful of fatal commercial accidents that did occur were limited to either cargo planes or regional carriers operating small aircraft.

This is no small achievement. Harrowing, high-fatality plane crashes, if not routine, were for decades events that took place every few years. If you have lived in this area long enough, you may recall the crash of a Delta jumbo jet at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in 1985 during a summer thunderstorm. The disaster claimed 137 lives.

Experts say technology and training have steadily reduced the incidence of these tragedies over the years. The D/FW crash, in fact, led directly to new standards in windshear-detection ability in both onboard and ground-based systems.

At the same time, new safety measures in aircraft construction mean that even in the event of a crash, passengers are more likely to survive. That’s due, among other factors, to better fire suppression and evacuation procedures.

“Cabin safety has improved by leaps and bounds since the 1970s and ‘80s,” said Adrian Young, a senior consultant who participated in one of the studies released recently, in an interview with The Washington Post.

Experts caution that there remain safety challenges in commercial aviation, and that there is no room for complacency in the operation of our nation’s—and our planet’s—complex air transit system. Ongoing challenges include risks posed by human fatigue and the fire danger posed by batteries used in consumer electronics.

But when poker-faced aviation officials assure you that the gravest modern danger to commercial air travel is the drive to the airport, they have the statistics to back it up. Passenger flights operated by major carriers are far and away the safest means of popular transportation.

What about that presidential Twitter claim last week, during which the commander-in-chief took credit for last year’s air safety record?

“It’s not a one-year phenomenon,” was the tactful response to The Post from retired pilot and airline safety consultant John Cox. “It was the work of thousands of people over decades.”

(c)2018 The Dallas Morning News



Bannon may be in violation of his contract

The increasingly bizarre dispute between President Donald Trump and his former campaign aide and White House staffer Steve Bannon continues to boggle the mind.

Yet for me as a contracts professor, one corner of the con-
tretemps raises a simple and clear question. I refer to the letter from Trump’s lawyer, Charles Harder, insisting that Bannon is in violation of a non-disparagement clause in the contract that he signed when he joined the campaign. If the facts are as claimed, I think the clause is enforceable.

Let’s begin with a basic proposition: non-disparagement clauses are increasingly a part of employment contracts, and the courts routinely enforce them. It’s easy to see why. If an employer and an employee are bargaining at arm’s length, the employer’s insistence on such a clause will result in higher compensation for the employee. In other words, employers will pay employees a premium to give up the right to disparage. As long as the employee understands the trade he’s making when he signs the contract, why should the courts interfere? As a general rule, they don’t.

We can put aside non-disparagement clauses buried in the boilerplate of consumer contracts, which companies sometimes try to use to prevent those who buy their products from posting negative reviews. Most courts have understandably held such clauses unenforceable. But when non-disparagement clauses are included in employment contracts or separation agreements, they are enforced more or less routinely. The reason isn’t that judges don’t understand that the clauses might be abused. The reason is that the employee who agreed to the deal is bound by his own free choice.

For example, in *Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. v. Farese*, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit faced an argument that a non-disparagement clause might be used to prevent a former employee from disclosing instances in which the employer broke the law.

The judges were unimpressed. In 2005, they refused to strike down the clause based on “the mere possibility that an employer could use a non-disparagement clause to hide illegal activity.” The court conceded that the clause might possibly be set aside should the employee seek to disclose actual crimes. But the opinion implies that the proper venue for such allegations is the relevant public authorities. Free-speech claims are routinely raised by parties who are sued for violating non-disparagement clauses. Judges are generally unpersuaded. For example, here’s the response of a California appellate court in a 2010 case called *Sahlolbei v. Montgomery*:

Simply put, if Montgomery agreed not to disparage Sahlolbei, then a reasonable person could conclude that Montgomery waived his right to speak freely about Sahlolbei, and therefore, even if Montgomery’s statements are protected, he could be found in breach of the settlement agreement.

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**
Bloomberg View

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg View columnist. He is a professor of law at Yale University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. His books include *Civility and Integrity*. Readers may email him at scarter01@bloomberg.net.



Even when the party in violation makes a disparaging statement with an eye toward publication, the courts reject claims that the public’s right to know should prevail. In *Fisher v. Biozone Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, a federal district judge enforced a non-disclosure agreement in 2013 when one of the parties emailed a journalist with disparaging claims about the other.

Nor have courts been impressed by claims of a public right to know. Just last fall, a federal court in Maryland rejected a First Amendment challenge to a non-disparagement clause included in the settlement of a police brutality suit.

“The agreement itself was only eight pages long,” the judge wrote in *Overbey v. City of Baltimore*, “and the non-disparagement clause was not hidden in fine print.” The plaintiff, had she chosen to, “could have leveraged her position to demand that the non-disparagement clause be removed.” She chose not to do so, wrote the court, so the clause was enforceable. If a victim of police brutality can’t escape her arms-length promises, it’s hard to see why a presidential adviser should.

Don’t get me wrong. That Trump’s legal threat against Bannon might have some degree of merit doesn’t mean the threat should have been made. It should be beneath presidential dignity to go after a former staffer for cooperating on an uncomplimentary book, although given the thin skin of the current incumbent, I suppose we should expect little else.

I should add that the president’s legal threat against the book’s publisher is utterly groundless; the publisher is not a party to Bannon’s campaign-employment contract. And of course the fact that Bannon is distasteful to so many Americans should have no effect on his right to speak freely; on the contrary, those who are most despised are most in need of constitutional protection.

But if, as Harder’s letter claims, Bannon is in violation of a signed agreement not to disparage Trump or the campaign—and if, as I have suggested, Bannon entered into the deal with his eyes wide open—then what we are left with is not a test of the First Amendment but a simple action for breach of contract. I hope the action is never filed.

Given the precedents, however, the outcome would be clear.

What one thing will make you complete?

Imagine yourself in “The Wizard of Oz” having been asked to sing right after the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion. They belt out songs about how they want a brain, a heart and some courage, respectively. With wit, courage and heart, you’re suddenly under the spotlight, ready to launch into your own song. Naturally it begins with the signature phrase, “If I only had a ...”

Before you think about it too much, decide what word comes next. What is the “it” you believe will make you complete? What is your ineffable “it”?

What object, connection, accomplishment, physical attribute, personality trait or guarantee would make you feel as though the Wizard had heard your request? If you clicked your ruby slippers together, what’s the one thing that you’d make sure happened to you?

No “world peace,” by the way. This one has to be entirely personal even if it might have global implications. It can be a wish to be a mathematical genius allowing you to work on projects leading to treatments for disease or disaster, but you have to want something personally.

Writer Bonnie Jean Feldkamp wants an agent; Dartmouth friend Philip Odenice wants an answer; my friend from the Erna Bombeck Writers Conference, Amy Hartl Sherman, wants a calmer mind. Desires range from the practical to the fanciful: My Facebook friend Martha Hardcastle Guthrie needs “a break in Obamacare, which went to more than \$700 a month,” and pal Hope from Connecticut wants a pony but is steeling herself for

yet “another year of disappointment.”

I never wanted a pony. But there was one lonely moment in my childhood when I was desperate for an unsuitable plastic parrot.

When we moved from Brooklyn to Long Island, I left all my friends behind, as if they’d been packed in box we forgot to bring with us. When I was about 7, during a long silent walk with my equally solitary mother, I became fixated on a plastic parrot sitting askew on a branch in the window arrangement of a florist’s shop.

This was no toy. Blood red and army green, fitted with marbles for eyes, it stood about three feet tall and was made of some tough, scratched and unforgiving material. No doubt it had been passed from flower shop to flower shop for years. But in a flash, I was absolutely certain that if I owned that thing, I’d never be lonesome again. If I could only have that huge, awful and ugly object in my room, my life would suddenly be rich and wonderful. It would be as if I had a friend to whom I could always tell my secrets.

For two weeks, I did extra household chores. I counted all the change in my bank. I walked the neighbor’s dachshund—even when it wanted to stay inside.

I don’t know how I finally convinced my shy mother to talk to the man behind the counter but do I remember his reply. After a long pause, he said, “Ma’am, that bird is for display only.” And I remember that he looked at both of us as if we were nuts.

I started to cry. “Please, I have five dollars.” That was a lot of

By **GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant



Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

cash and the guy was no fool. Mom and I went home with the plastic parrot.

And my life did not change. Eventually my circumstances did, but it wasn’t because of what I imagined.

You always remain you—and the plastic parrot of success often turns out to be a prop, and a pretty shabby one at that, as you realize once you get it home. You probably overpaid and you might have talked yourself into believing it would magically transform your universe when all you needed was to look more carefully at the real world.

Like Dorothy, many of us already possess what we need to be content. But for those who are financially insecure, who worry about their health and who never found true friends, the need for security, safety and community are real.

Listen to the military on climate change

By **DAVID BARNHILL**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Whom should we believe when it comes to national security: military experts preparing for future dangers, or politicians preparing for their next election?

Yes, that’s a rhetorical question, but it deserves consideration. When it comes to global warming, national security has taken a back seat to ideology and campaign contributions.

There is little doubt, outside of Washington, D.C., about the causes of climate change. That the planet is getting warmer due to human activity is confirmed by 97 percent of climate scientists and nearly 200 scientific academies around the world. As the American Association for the Advancement of Science has noted, science is as certain of the reality of human-caused climate disruption as it is of the link between smoking and cancer.

But an alternate reality has been promulgated by fossil fuel interests and free-market fundamentalists. These “merchants of doubt” have sought to create distrust in climate science. The tobacco industry ran a similar campaign successfully for decades.

Now we have an EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt, who wants a public “debate” on the issue. This is like the head of the Ameri-

can Medical Association calling for a debate on whether smoking causes cancer.

Such efforts are working. In a recent poll, less than a quarter of Americans reported being “very worried” about global warming. But the U.S. military is very worried, and has been for years.

In 2007, when George W. Bush was president, a military board produced the report National Security and the Threat of Climate Change. It affirmed that “climate change can act as a threat multiplier for instability ... and it presents significant national security challenges for the United States.”

The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review Report by the Department of Defense termed global warming “an accelerant of instability or conflict.” Dozens of other reports have expounded on this threat.

David Titley, a retired rear admiral who has a Ph.D. in meteorology, spoke for many in the military when he wrote in 2014: “The climate is changing. We can do something about it. For the sake of our nation and the world, we must act.”

The last five secretaries of defense, starting with Bush’s Robert Gates, have urged government action on global warming. In testimony to Congress in 2017, Donald Trump’s Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis called climate change “a challenge that requires a broader, whole-of-government response.”

Military strategists, unlike politicians, can’t afford to play ideological games when it comes to national security. They must focus on how climate disruption is creating political destabilization globally and straining the military’s ability to respond to crises.

But Republicans in Congress are not being helpful. In the summer of 2017, they tried to pass an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would have prevented the Defense Department from studying the security impacts of climate disruption. Fortunately, there were enough Republicans who cared about national security to join Democrats in voting against it.

Trump, however, remains intransigent. His new National Security Strategy, released in December, ignores the defense experts and avoids any mention of global warming as a national security concern. Trump is dismissing a threat that the military considers to be severe.

So there are two more questions: What politicians do you want in office making decisions about national security? And where does your representative in Congress stand?

David Barnhill is emeritus director of environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. This column was written for the Progressive Media Project, affiliated with The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

Satiric sonnets

This trilogy of satiric sonnets is dedicated to Dr. Eileen Rosenberg, formerly Sister Marie Jose, my homeroom, French language, and English teacher at Notre Dame High School, in Elmira, NY, from school year 1963 to 1966. She has inspired me for more than 50 years. I had the wonderful pleasure of reconnecting with her over the holidays. My inspiration here comes from two French lyric poets, quoted below. Thanks, Eileen, for opening the worlds of philosophy, literature, peace, love, discipline, tolerance and understanding to me. With all my platonic love, *merci beaucoup*, Eileen.

Chump Trump Kicked out of the ‘Dump’

“...and I don’t have any fun, powerful, and with no strength to cope, well received, dismissed by everyone”
—Francois Villon (1431-1463?)

Florida’s I am, bigly man at Mar-A-Lago
from the White House ‘dump’ I come
got kicked right out the door on my bum
can’t compare with that guy from Chicago.
Believe me I didn’t like it in DC much either
my Jersey golf courses were too far away
hard to reach when I gave tweeting a breather
now I drive a golf cart right out to the fairway.

European allies heard to say, “This guy is insane.”
Chinese copy me, “Making China Great Again”
I’ll tweet for an hour more and go golfing then
Putin’s KGB rats and tactics are hard to explain.
Gotta new smart phone ring with cathedral chimes
it repeats, “No Collusion” a total of sixteen times.

Special Counsel Means Business

“I was so assailed by the memory of that grand beauty I recall, all this world means nothing at all!”
—Charles D’Orleans (1394-1465)

I was assailed with questions by the Grand Jury
a messy memory of which I’d rather not recall
by him who formerly led the FBI without worry
gaining information from email and phone calls.
I flipped info, a sheep sheared, three bags full
other witnesses cried to their lawyers for days
I cried mercy mercy too, wiping my own eyes
the Special Counselor means business after all.
McMasters, Mattis, and Kelly, all generals three
along with many lawyers participate in the stall.
Tweety Twit more tweets distorting democracy
obfuscation and distraction in Congressional halls
now the real media listens and begins to realize
the victims of a Kremlin / Capitol Hill compromise.

Special Counsel Does Business

“... here’s a truth that will appall: Death wages war without

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey “Pepé Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

surcease; If there’s no way to make peace.”
—inspiration from Charles D’Orleans (1394 -1465)

Closed hearing testifying in the District of Columbia as temperatures drop to zero my blood pressure rises information on bank accounts in Malta and Crimea I start to pay attention to what my attorney advises.

The entire 2016 Presidential campaign it seems to me was a chaotic internecine mess from start to finish with huge bundles of international money laundry multiple examples of collusion they can’t diminish. Blondie bling thing suffered from lack of knowledge about most everything but bankruptcy and real estate surprised about the strength of the electoral college he really liked the simplicity of Make America Great.

Though in actuality the narcissist reality TV show star increased national division and made people hate.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

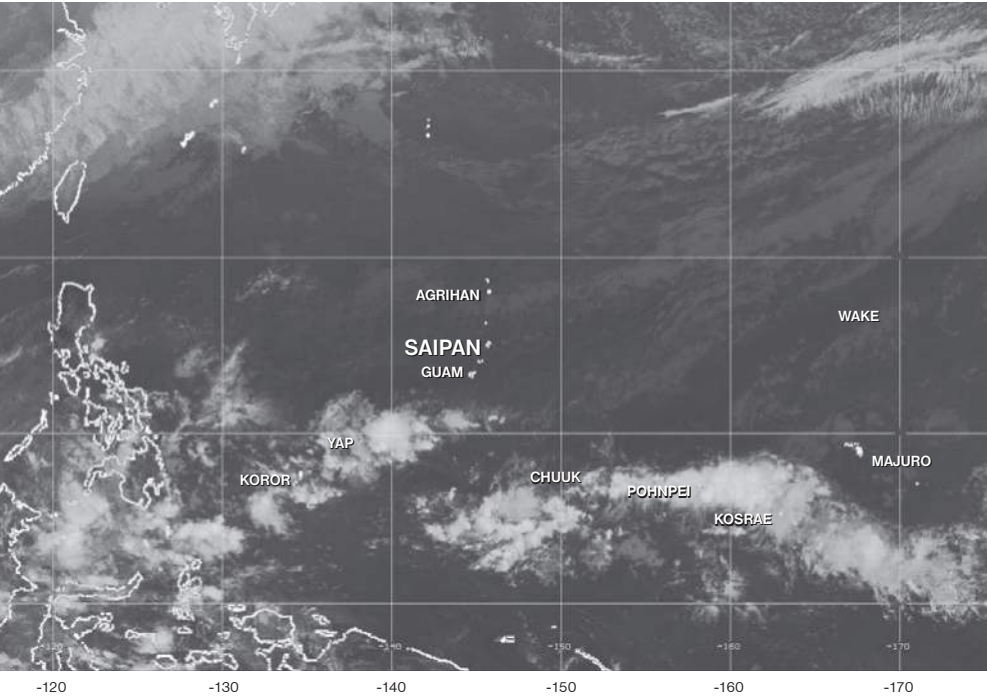
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly quiet pattern is in place over the Marianas. The remnants of a shear line remain to the south of Guam and there are some showers but for the most part they are expected to remain south of Guam. Then expect dry conditions for most of the week. Another shear line may approach over the weekend. Wind will increase later today into early Tuesday, due to the flow becoming more easterly and a picking up of the trade winds.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 64°	
Beijing	Sunny	30° / 10°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 71°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Rain	60° / 47°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	76° / 69°	
New York	Sunny	44° / 23°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°	
Paris	Cloudy	48° / 43°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	37° / 21°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	61° / 46°	
Salem	Cloudy	62° / 51°	
San Francisco	Showers	56° / 48°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	25° / 7°	
Tokyo	Windy	54° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	47° / 27°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.39	
7:13 AM	LOW TIDE	0.47	
1:54 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91	
8:53 PM	LOW TIDE	0.56	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:05 am	12:21 pm	-
Wednesday	12:56 am	1:02 pm	-
Thursday	1:45 am	1:42 pm	-
Friday	2:34 am	2:23 pm	-
Saturday	3:23 am	3:06 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Island Snapshots



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

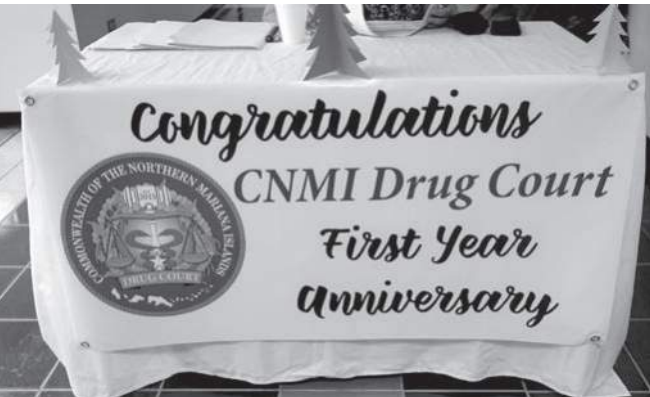
Acting governor Victor B. Hocog is joined by House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), and members of the House of Representatives during the signing of House Bill 20-129 last month.



BEA CABRERA

NEW YEAR BABY

The Villazon family with baby boy Dakota pose with the nurses of the Labor & Delivery unit and OB unit of the Commonwealth Health Center last Jan. 1.



DRUG COURT ANNIVERSARY

BEA CABRERA

Last Dec. 21 marked the first year anniversary of the CNMI Drug Court that was made possible through the efforts of the three branches of the CNMI government—Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary. According to Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, the drug court has 38 participants to date. In her message, she said the success of the Drug Court would not be possible without the community “It takes the entire community to support and everybody has stepped up. I fell in love with this program of helping people live healthier and lead better lives and would like to thank all the stakeholders who have participated to make it all possible.”



NEW EXPERIENCE

BEA CABRERA

“The local community is starting to experience craft beer. They start with something light and slowly transitioning to other flavors. Now, people are coming in asking for recommendations,” said FrankenBrau president and co-founder Bruno Doetsch.



GOING UP

ERWIN ENCINARES

An elderly tourist struggles to scale the path of The Grotto. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is eyeing collecting fees from tourists accessing the site.



REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The attendees of the fourth annual Captain David I. Lyon remembrance ceremony that was held on Saipan pose for a picture last month at the American Memorial Park.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The color guard raise the CNMI and U.S. flags during the remembrance ceremony for Captain David I. Lyon.

Business

High or Dry? California legal pot to test supply pipeline

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Most Californians with an urge to smoke a joint will enter the state's legal marijuana marketplace through a single doorway—at a retail shop.

But out of view of those day-to-day sales, the state is ushering in a sprawling, untested system to move pot from place to place that will also serve as a collection point for taxes, a gateway for testing and a packaging center for the plant's fragrant buds.

The so-called marijuana distributor is a kind of skeleton connecting the state's emerging industry of growers, sellers and manufacturers. It's envisioned as a vast back office where the grunt work of keeping track of cannabis and getting it from farms to store shelves will take place.

But just days after legal sales began, there are concerns that not enough companies are licensed and ready to transport pot. Some predict that within weeks, cannabis could be marooned at fields and warehouses while dispensary shelves go barren.

"There's going to be huge bottleneck in the distribution network in California at some point," said Terry Blevins, CEO of a security firm and a part-owner of a marijuana distribution company in Southern California.

Billions of dollars of pot will need to move through the market in 2018, and "I don't believe there are enough businesses to handle it," he said.

California's new market was rattled Thursday when the Trump administration signaled



a more aggressive approach to marijuana prosecutions, lifting an Obama-era policy that kept federal authorities from cracking down on the pot trade in states where the drug is legal.

The impact of Attorney General Jeff Sessions' decision is uncertain. But some predict it could discourage businesses from entering the distribution system, while making those in it extremely cautious about what growers and sellers they work with, narrowing the pipeline for moving goods.

Flow Kana CEO Michael Steinmetz, whose company

distributes cannabis products from small, outdoor farmers, said a slow rollout of licenses has resulted in a limited pool of distributors.

A patchwork of rules has emerged so far, with some cities allowing legal sales and others banning all commercial pot activity. Los Angeles—the state's biggest market—has yet to authorize any licenses, though the first could be issued next week.

Kana Flow, which is developing a new distribution center on the site of a former Mendocino County winery, transports cannabis for about

AP
JP Noda stocks cannabis at The Apothecarium shortly before the store opened for its first day of recreational marijuana sales on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018, in San Francisco.

100 local producers.

While many retailers stocked up in advance of legal sales, "I do think we are going to see a big reduction in supply," Steinmetz predicted.

A crimp in the supply chain, if it happens, would reprise what occurred in Nevada last year, when the start of legal sales saw a surge in demand with too few licenses to distribute it.

Pot distribution in California has long been an informal and largely hidden business, with arrangements made between growers and sellers. The move to the new system will be a major transformation: Under California law, pot can be transported only by companies holding a distributor license.

Co-workers need to stop complaining about colleague

Q: As the manager of a small office, I am not sure how to handle an ongoing complaint about one employee. Two women who work with "Jessica" keep telling me they're disturbed by the noises that she makes.

These co-workers say Jessica "grunts and groans" whenever she gets up from her chair, possibly because she is overweight and has a chronic back problem. They also complain about "loud chewing and slurping" when Jessica eats lunch at her desk.

I know they are waiting for me to solve the problem, and the tension is building. However, I can't figure out how to discuss this with Jessica. Rearranging the desks is not an option. What should I do about this?

A: I agree that you have a problem, but not the one you describe. In my opinion, your difficulty lies not with Jessica, but with her spiteful colleagues. By paying attention to these whining drama queens, you are contributing to the discord in your office.

If Jessica were playing loud music or singing at her desk, those would be valid issues. But the fact is that human beings are not silent creatures. They cough, laugh, sniff, sigh and produce all manner of other bodily sounds, so an occasional "grunt or groan" is just part of the normal background noise.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



As for "chewing loudly," that's simply ridiculous. I seriously doubt that Jessica's food consumption rises above a normal decibel level. And besides, how long does lunch typically last anyway?

This mean-girl twosome has apparently decided to make Jessica a target, and you're playing right into their hands. So instead of dignifying these petty gripes by acting on them, you should direct this disruptive duo to modify their attitude.

For example: "I don't know why you two are so focused on Jessica, but the sounds you describe are normal human noises, like coughing or sneezing. While you apparently find this irritating, you undoubtedly have habits which also annoy people. So I expect you to be patient with Jessica, just as I expect others to be patient with you."

Because this small grievance could signify a larger problem, you may want to dig a little deeper into the state of relationships in this

group. Should you discover evidence of cliques, shunning, or intimidation, then you will have a much more serious issue to address.

Q: After an extremely rewarding career in health care, I plan to retire in about five years. During that time, I would like to find ways to mentor young people and share my acquired knowledge. In my job, I already have the opportunity to teach students, but I would like to do even more. Do you have any suggestions?

A: Your desire to assist the next generation is truly commendable. Since you are already an educator, another outlet for those talents might be found through your professional association. Speaking at conferences or writing for publication would enable you to reach a much wider audience.

As an added benefit, you should be able to continue these activities for as long as you like. Retiring from your job does not have to mean retiring from your profession.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Former WTO chief, UN envoy Peter Sutherland dies at 71

LONDON (AP)—Irish businessman and diplomat Peter Sutherland, who held senior roles in the European Union, the World Trade Organization and the U.N., has died. He was 71. Sutherland's family says he died Sunday at a Dublin hospital after a long illness. Trained as a lawyer, Sutherland was Ireland's attorney general between 1981 and 1984. He was Ireland's representative on the European Commission between 1985 and 1989, working to streamline the bloc's completion policy and setting up the hugely popular Erasmus study-abroad program for European students. Sutherland became founding director-general of the World Trade Organization in 1993, and in 2006 was named the United

Nations' envoy on international migration. Business roles included stints as chairman of Allied Irish Bank, finance firm Goldman Sachs and oil company BP. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said Sutherland was "an Irishman, a committed European and a proud internationalist." European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Sutherland was "a true European." "He believed strongly in the work of the European Union and other international organizations and their importance for cooperation and international dialogue," Juncker said. Sutherland is survived by his wife Maruja, three children and several grandchildren.

Vietnam tries former oil executives in widened crackdown

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—

Vietnam has begun a major corruption trial against defendants who include a former senior Communist official and a former oil executive the Vietnamese government is accused of snatching from Germany. Dinh La Thang, a former Politburo member and former chairman of state energy giant PetroVietnam, is accused of mismanagement in a thermal power plant. Trinh Xuan Thanh, a former chairman of PetroVietnam's construction arm, is accused of the same charge as well as embezzlement. Thang is the first former Politburo member to face prosecution in decades. In August, Germany accused Vietnam of kidnapping Thanh from a Berlin park in an incident that strained bilateral ties. The trial Monday involves the two men, along with 20 others who are mostly current or former senior oil executives.

Nation

Bannon tries to make amends as aides defend Trump's fitness

WASHINGTON (AP)—Steve Bannon is trying to make amends.

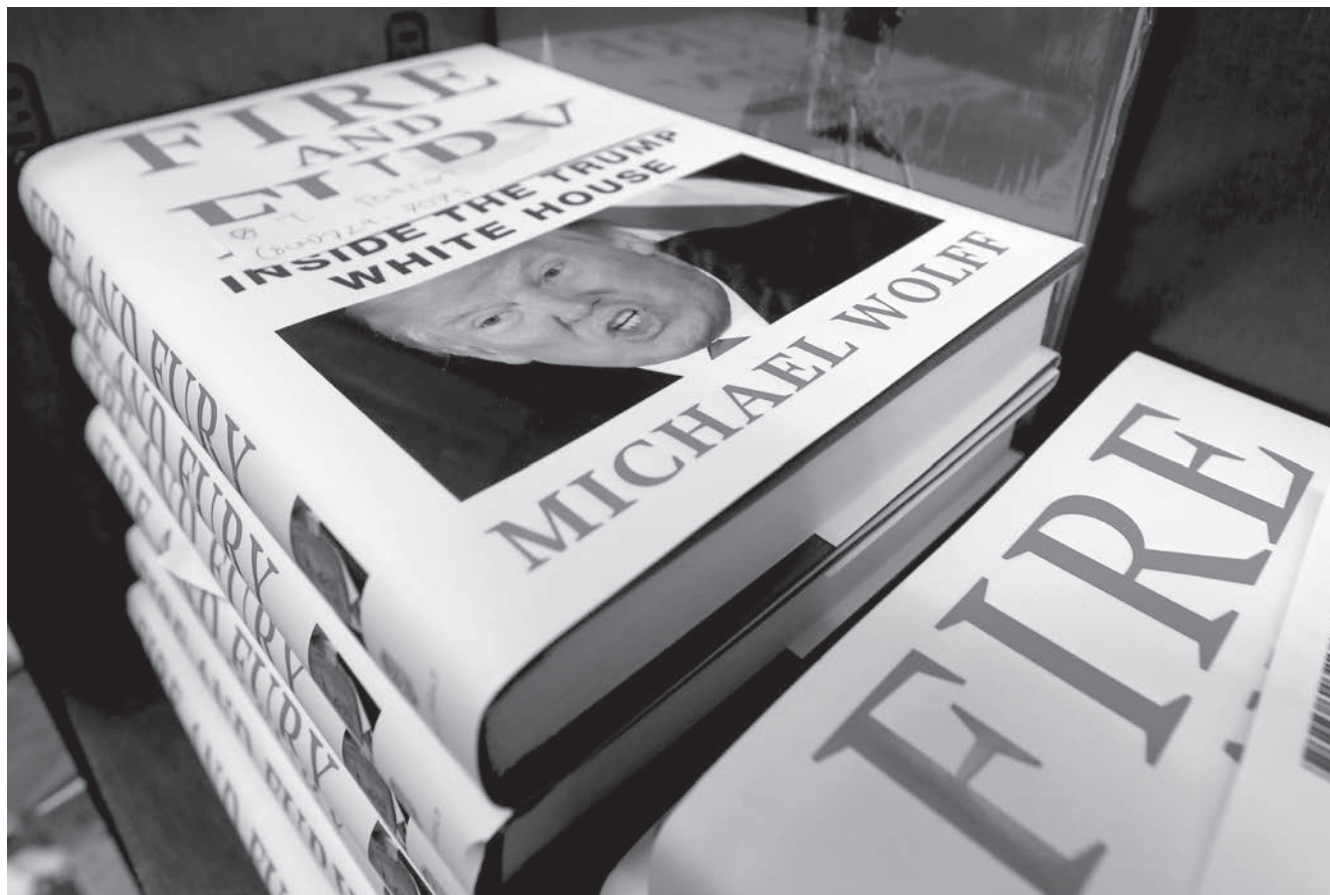
Faced with a growing backlash, President Donald Trump's former chief strategist released a statement Sunday reaffirming his support for the commander in chief and praising Trump's eldest son as "both a patriot and a good man."

Bannon infuriated Trump with comments to author Michael Wolff describing a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower in New York between Donald Trump Jr., Trump campaign aides and a Russian lawyer as "treasonous" and "unpatriotic."

But Bannon said Sunday his description was aimed at former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who also attended the meeting, and not Trump's son.

"I regret that my delay in responding to the inaccurate reporting regarding Don Jr has diverted attention from the president's historical accomplishments in the first year of his presidency," Bannon said in the statement, first obtained by the news site Axios. Bannon said his support for Trump and his agenda was "unwavering."

Hours before the statement



A stack of reserved "Fire and Fury" books by writer Michael Wolff sit on a shelf in a bookstore in Richmond, Va., Friday, Jan. 5, 2018.

came out, administration officials used appearances on the Sunday news shows to rally behind Trump and try to undermine Wolff's "Fire and

Fury: Inside the Trump White House," which portrays the 45th president as a leader who doesn't understand the weight of his office and whose competence is questioned by aides.

Chief policy adviser Stephen Miller, in a combative appearance on CNN, described the book as "nothing but a pile of trash through and through."

He also criticized Bannon, who is quoted at length by

Wolff, saying it was "tragic and unfortunate" that Bannon "would make these grotesque comments so out of touch with reality and obviously so vindictive."

CIA Director Mike Pompeo said Trump was "completely fit" to lead the country, pausing before answering because, he said on "Fox News Sunday," it was such "a ludicrous question."

"These are from people

who just have not accepted the fact that President Trump is the United States president and I'm sorry for them in that," said Pompeo, who gives Trump his regular intelligence briefings.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said that she is at the White House once a week, and "no one questions the stability of the president."

"I'm always amazed at

the lengths people will go to, to lie for money and for power. This is like taking it to a whole new low," she told ABC's "This Week."

To Miller, "the portrayal of the president in the book is so contrary to reality, to the experience of those who work with him."

Miller's interview on CNN's "State of the Union" quickly grew heated, with Miller criticizing CNN's coverage and moderator Jake Tapper pressing Miller to answer his questions and accusing him of speaking to only one viewer: Trump.

Tapper abruptly ended the interview, saying: "I think I've wasted enough of my viewers' time."

Soon after, Trump tweeted: "Jake Tapper of Fake News CNN just got destroyed in his interview with Stephen Miller of the Trump Administration. Watch the hatred and unfairness of this CNN flunky!"

Trump took to Twitter on Saturday to defend his fitness for office, insisting he is "like, really smart" and, indeed, a "very stable genius." He pressed the case again on Sunday as he prepared to depart Camp David for the White House.

"I've had to put up with the Fake News from the first day I announced that I would be running for President. Now I have to put up with a Fake Book, written by a totally discredited author," he tweeted.

UN envoy says no change in US position on North Korea talks

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's U.N. ambassador said Sunday the administration isn't changing its conditions regarding talks with North Korea amid growing tensions over the North's nuclear and missile programs.

Nikki Haley made clear that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would first need to stop weapons testing for a "significant amount of time."

Trump had said on Saturday that he was open to talking to Kim. It appeared to be a softening of rhetoric, given that Trump lectured Secretary of State Rex Tillerson last year that it would be a waste of time "trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man," Trump's nickname for Kim.

But Haley insisted that Trump was reiterating his past position in his comments from Camp David over the weekend.

"There is no turnaround," she said. "What he has basically said is 'yes, there could be a time where we talk to North Korea,' but a lot of things have to happen before that actually takes place. They have to stop testing. They have to be willing to talk about banning their nuclear weapons."

"It's a dangerous situation," Haley added.

Trump's comments came as the first formal talks between North and South in more than two years are set to take place in a border town Tuesday; the rivals are trying to find ways to cooperate on the Winter Olympics that begin next month in the South. Tensions are high because of the North's nuclear and missile programs.

Haley said it was her understanding that the two sides were limiting their talks to the Olympics, "but you know, those two countries have to get along."

"That's good for the United States that they can at least start getting back into talks," she said.

The Trump administration has agreed to delay joint military exercises with South Korea until after the Olympics. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis insisted the move was a practical necessity to accommodate the Olympics and was not a political gesture.

In recent weeks, Trump and Kim have traded barbs about their arsenals and the "nuclear button" on their desks, raising fears the two countries could be drawing closer to war.

States exploring tax changes in response to federal overhaul

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (AP)—In New Jersey and California, top Democratic officials want to let people make charitable contributions to the state instead of paying certain taxes. In Connecticut and New York, officials are exploring a switch from income taxes to new ones on payroll. A few governors have even called for tax cuts.

The ideas are bubbling up as state lawmakers begin their 2018 sessions and assess the effects of the Republican tax overhaul that President Donald Trump signed into law last month. Lawmakers and governors in some states are grappling with how to protect their constituents.

The federal policy implements a maze of changes. It cuts tax rates and nearly doubles the standard income deduction. Yet it also caps or eliminates some popular itemized deductions, and sets the personal exemptions to zero.

For many Americans, the result is expected to be lower

federal tax obligations, at least initially. Those facing higher bills are expected to be concentrated in some high-tax states.

With legislators starting their sessions and governors writing state budgets, the response is a political priority. The proposals are bold, though not yet fleshed out.

This week, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo used his state-of-the-state speech to pledge to sue over the GOP tax plan, which he called "an assault" by the federal government. A lawsuit would add taxes to the growing list of Trump administration policies that Democratic states have challenged in court.

Other states have not committed to sue, but some leaders have indicated they'll explore the idea.

"I'm certainly not a constitutional lawyer, but the notion that this is not constitutional is something we want to pursue," said Phil Murphy, New Jersey's Democratic

governor-elect.

Officials in California and Connecticut also said this week they were considering legal options.

In high-tax states, officials have been focused on protecting taxpayers from the impact of a new \$10,000 cap on deductions for paying state and local taxes. In California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, more than one-third of tax filers claim the state and local tax deduction on federal taxes; the average deduction in each state is over \$15,000.

California state Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon, a Los Angeles Democrat who is running for the U.S. Senate, introduced legislation this week that would allow people to make charitable donations to the state instead of paying income taxes. That would allow them to claim a charitable deduction on federal taxes.

"Our hard-earned tax dollars should not be subject to

double-taxation, especially not to line the pockets of the Trump family, hedge fund managers and private jet owners," de Leon said in a statement.

Another Democrat, New Jersey Gov.-elect Phil Murphy, announced a similar plan on Friday but said local governments also could implement it and apply it to property taxes.

Kim Rueben, a senior fellow at the liberal-leaning Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, said it remains to be seen whether the IRS would allow deductions for that kind of contribution if it's rewarded with tax credits. There is some precedent for it, though: She noted that some states give tax credits in return for private-school scholarships and that the IRS allows deductions of those contributions.

In Connecticut, two Democratic legislative leaders want to replace income taxes on individuals with payroll taxes on employers.

Asia

US joins search for 32 missing after ships collide off China

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. Navy has joined the search for 32 crew members missing from an Iranian oil tanker that caught fire after colliding with a bulk freighter off China's east coast.

China, South Korea and the U.S. sent ships and planes to search for the 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis who have been missing since the collision late Saturday. The U.S. Navy, which sent a P-8A aircraft from Okinawa, Japan, to aid the search, said late Sunday that none of the missing crew had been found.

The Panama-registered tanker Sanchi was sailing from Iran to South Korea when it collided late Saturday with the Hong Kong-registered freighter CF Crystal in the East China Sea, 257 kilometers (160 miles) off the coast of Shanghai, China's Ministry of Transport said.

All 21 crew members of the Crystal, which was carrying grain from the United States to China, were rescued, the ministry said. The Crystal's crew members were all Chinese nationals.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the collision.



AP
In this image made from video run by China's CCTV, a rescue ship sprays water to put out a blaze at the Panama-registered tanker "Sanchi" after a collision with a Hong Kong-registered freighter off China's eastern coast, Monday, Jan. 8, 2017.

Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters, said 30 of the tanker's 32 crew members were Iranians.

"We have no information on their fate," he said Sunday. "We cannot say all of them have died, because rescue teams are there and providing services."

The official said the tanker was owned by the National Iranian Tanker Co. and had been rented by a South Korean company, Hanwha Total Co. He said the tanker was on its way to South Korea.

Hanwa Total is a 50-50 partnership between the Seoul-based Hanwha Group and the French oil giant Total. Total did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

It's the second collision for a ship from the National Iranian Tanker Co. in less than a year and a half. In August 2016, one of its tankers collided with a Swiss container ship in the Singapore Strait, damaging both ships but causing no injuries or oil spill.

Malaysian opposition names 92-year-old Mahathir as PM choice

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's opposition alliance has named 92-year-old former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad as its prime minister candidate for upcoming general elections to boost its chances of wresting power from a coalition that has ruled since independence.

The announcement Sunday by the four-party Hope Alliance puts an end to squabbling over the thorny issue and is seen as a major show of unity ahead of polls that must be held by August but are widely expected in the second quarter.

Prime Minister Najib Razak has clung to power despite an epic corruption scandal that involved hundreds of millions of dollars passing through his bank accounts. Support for his ruling National Front coalition has dwindled in the last two elections. In 2013, the coalition lost the national popular vote for the first time to the opposition.

Analysts said the opposition still faces an uphill battle due to party infighting, unfavorable electoral boundary changes and strong support for the government from rural ethnic Malays.

"Clearly the opposition is trying hard to prove that they

are united. It is a potential risk (to Najib) as Mahathir is still attractive to the Malays but the government still has the upper hand due to an unlevel playing field," said Wan Saiful Wan Jan, who heads the think tank Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs.

Government leaders scorned the candidacy of Mahathir, who will be the world's oldest leader if the opposition wins. Government minister Abdul Rahman Dahlan called his candidacy a stumbling block to the opposition's reform agenda.

"It's laughable for (the opposition) to appoint Mahathir as the next PM and expect him to implement those reforms," he tweeted. "It's a tragedy to their own cause....anyway, I thank (the opposition) for making it even easier for (the ruling coalition) to win the upcoming general election."

Mahathir, Asia's longest-serving leader for 22 years before stepping down in 2003, was an authoritarian who made a high-profile return to politics in a bid to oust his protégé Najib.

Najib has sacked critics in his own government including an attorney general and deputy prime minister and

and shrouded in thick black smoke.

Chinese authorities dispatched three ships to clean the oil spill. It was not clear, however, whether the tanker was still spilling oil as of Monday and the size of the oil slick

muzzled the media since the scandal erupted two years ago. The U.S. and several other countries are investigating allegations of cross-border embezzlement and money laundering at 1MDB, a state investment fund set up and previously led by Najib to promote economic development but which accumulated billions in debt. Najib has denied any wrongdoing.

The opposition coalition Sunday also agreed on allocation of seats for the polls and to limit the prime minister's tenure to two terms if they win. The coalition, which includes the party led by jailed former deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, also said they will seek a royal pardon for him so that Anwar can take over from Mahathir as the next prime minister.

Anwar was Mahathir's deputy until he was sacked in a power struggle in 1998 and later imprisoned on charges of corruption and sodomy that Anwar said were trumped up. Anwar was freed in 2004 but in 2015 he returned to prison following a second sodomy conviction that critics said was a political conspiracy to break up the opposition. He is due for release in June.

caused by the accident also was not known.

The Sanchi was carrying 136,000 metric tons (150,000 tons, or nearly 1 million barrels) of condensate, a type of ultra-light oil, according to Chinese authorities.

By comparison, the Exxon Valdez was carrying 1.26 million barrels of crude oil when it spilled 260,000 barrels into Prince William Sound off Alaska in 1989.

The Sanchi has operated un-

der five different names since it was built in 2008, according to the U.N.-run International Maritime Organization. The IMO listed its registered owner as Hong Kong-based Bright Shipping Ltd., on behalf of the National Iranian Tanker Co., a publicly traded company based in Tehran. The National Iranian Tanker Co. describes itself as operating the largest tanker fleet in the Middle East.

An official in Iran's Oil Ministry, who spoke to The

ASIAN BRIEFS

Blast kills 4 Indian policemen in disputed Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Police said four officers were killed Saturday when rebels fighting against Indian rule in disputed Kashmir detonated a bomb on a street the officers were patrolling. Streets were deserted and shops and businesses closed for a strike when the massive blast struck the northwestern town of Sopore, hitting the police patrol. The town, famous for apple orchards, is observing a shutdown on the 25th anniversary of a massacre in which government forces killed at least 47 people after a paramilitary soldier died in a rebel attack. The strike was called by separatist leaders who challenge India's sovereignty over Kashmir. The town was already on high alert with hundreds of police and paramilitary soldiers patrolling the area in anticipation of anti-India protests and clashes.

Sydney swelters through its hottest day in almost 80 years

SYDNEY (AP)—Dangerous heat is roasting parts of Australia with temperatures that haven't been seen in decades. The temperature in Sydney hit an almost 80-year high of 47.3 degrees Celsius (117 Fahrenheit) on Sunday—a sharp contrast to the bitter cold that has gripped much of the U.S. The temperature was just shy of the city's all-time high of 47.8 C (118F), set in 1939. New South Wales Police Deputy Commissioner Catherine Burn said the state's heat wave plan had been activated to respond to "severe to extreme heat conditions." Thousands were left without power, and total fire bans were put in place as officials warned of a severe danger. Residents were urged to drink extra water and limit their time outdoors because of air pollution resulting from the hot weather.

Rotor issue caused US helicopter emergency landing in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. military personnel appeared to remove part of the main rotor from a Marine Corps helicopter Sunday, one day after it made an emergency landing on a beach in Japan's southern Okinawa islands. Japanese television showed personnel in dark green uniforms using four metal stepladders to reach the rotor of the helicopter, which remained parked on the sand, near the Pacific Ocean. They handed down a large part and hand-carried it off the beach. The Marines confirmed in a statement that the UH-1Y helicopter landed on Ikejima, a small island off Okinawa's main island, after indications that the main rotor was moving at too high a speed. No one was injured in the Saturday afternoon incident. The Marines said the cause was under investigation.

World

Battle looms for rebel-held Syrian province after IS defeat

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian government forces and allied militiamen are advancing on the largest remaining rebel-held territory in the country's north, forcing thousands of civilians to flee toward the border with Turkey in freezing winter temperatures.

The offensive on Idlib—a large province in northwestern Syria packed with civilians and dominated by al-Qaida-linked militants—was expected after the defeat of the Islamic State group late last year. Last week, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the main military operations against IS in Syria have ended and signaled that the focus would shift to al-Qaida-linked militants.

The Idlib offensive carries significant risks.

The province bordering Turkey is home to more than 2.6 million Syrians, according to the U.N., including more than 1.1 million who fled fighting elsewhere in the country. A full-blown government offensive could cause large-scale destruction and massive displacement.

Turkey, a supporter of the rebels, has deployed military observers in the province as part of a de-escalation deal with Iran and Russia, but that has not stopped the fighting on the ground or Russian airstrikes against the insurgents.

It is not clear how far the current offensive aims to reach, and recapturing the entire province is expected to be a long and bloody process. Opposition activists say the main target for now appears to be the sprawling rebel-held air base of Abu Zuhour, on the southeastern edge of the



In this photo provided on Wednesday Jan. 3, 2018 by the Syrian anti-government activist group, Edlib Media Center, EMC, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows members of the Syrian civil defense known as the White Helmets, gathering at a street which was attacked by Russian airstrikes, in Maarat al-Nuaman town, southern Idlib province, Syria. **AP**

province, and securing the Damascus-Aleppo road that cuts through Idlib.

On Sunday, government forces recaptured the town of Sinjar, removing a key obstacle to its march toward the air base, according to reports by the state-affiliated Al-Ikhbariya TV. The town of Sinjar is located about 19 kilometers (12 miles) south of Abu Zuhour.

And hours later, a car bombing in the city of Idlib, the province's capital, killed 23 people and wounded dozens, according to activist groups. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Over the past two months,

troops backed by Russian airstrikes have captured more than 80 towns and villages in the northern parts of the nearby Hama province and breached Idlib itself for the first time since mid-2015.

The offensive gained more intensity on Christmas Day, when one of President Bashar Assad's most trusted and experienced officers took command of the operation to extend the government's presence toward Idlib and boost security for the road that links the capital, Damascus, with Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

Brig. Gen. Suheil al-Hassan, also known among his troops as "Tiger," has led elite forces

to many victories against insurgents since the conflict began nearly seven years ago. He has been credited most recently with the defeat of IS in much of eastern Syria, including the months-long battle for the city of Deir el-Zour.

"Conditions on the ground are wretched for the rebels," said an opposition activist based in northern Syria who asked to be identified by his first name, Hassan, for fear of reprisals by insurgents. He said rebels are stuck in a two-front battle with government forces and remaining pockets of Islamic State militants. He said the Russian airstrikes have exacted a heavy toll.

Another opposition activist based in Hama province, Mohammed al-Ali, said the Russians and the Syrian government are "carpet bombing" villages before pushing into them.

"The Russian airstrikes, weak fortifications and Islamic State attacks in Hama" have all helped government forces, he said by telephone.

Hassan and al-Ali said it is highly unlikely that government forces would march toward the provincial capital, also named Idlib, because it would set up a costly battle with highly experienced and well-armed al-Qaida-linked insurgents. The province is domi-

nated by the Levant Liberation Committee, which claims to have severed ties with al-Qaida but is widely believed to still be affiliated with it.

Al-Hassan's chief mission for now appears to be securing the Damascus-Aleppo road.

In December 2016, Assad's forces captured rebel-held parts of the city of Aleppo, marking the government's biggest victory since the conflict began. The main road to the capital remained perilous, however, with insurgents attacking it from the west and IS from the east. The troops have since driven IS back, but the western side remains exposed.

Four days after al-Hassan took over operational command, troops managed to break through the militants' heavy defenses and capture the town of Abu Dali, a link between Hama, Idlib and Aleppo.

Since then, thousands of people have been fleeing with their belongings amid harsh cold weather toward safer areas further north, including Idlib city and areas near the border with Turkey. Pro-opposition media say that more than 5,000 families have fled the violence over the past two weeks, some renting homes or staying in tents in open fields, others left homeless.

Last week, government forces advanced to within around 12 kilometers (8 miles) of Khan Sheikhoun, where a sarin nerve gas attack killed more than 90 people last year, prompting the U.S. to launch a missile attack on Assad's troops. Experts from the U.N. and other monitoring groups blamed the chemical attack on the government, which denied responsibility.

Iran's Guard claims victory against anti-government protests

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's Revolutionary Guard said on Sunday that the nation and its security forces have ended the wave of unrest linked to anti-government protests that erupted last month.

In a statement on its website, the force blamed the unrest on the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia, as well as an exiled opposition group known as the Mujahdeen-e-Khalq, and supporters of the monarchy that was overthrown in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Price hikes sparked protests in a number of cities and towns late last month,

and at least 21 people were killed in scattered clashes.

The protests, which vented anger at high unemployment and official corruption, were the largest seen in Iran since the disputed 2009 presidential election, and some demonstrators called for the overthrow of the government.

Authorities have said in the past few days that the protests are waning but The Associated Press could not independently verify that.

The Revolutionary Guard is a powerful paramilitary force loyal to the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Armed clashes kill 11 in Mexico's troubled Guerrero state

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—Violent clashes involving gunmen, a community police force and state police killed 11 people in the troubled southern state of Guerrero on Sunday, while a separate series of shootouts the previous night left seven dead in the northern Mexico beach resort of San Jose del Cabo.

Guerrero state security spokesman Roberto Alvarez said eight people were initially killed when gunmen ambushed community police before dawn in the town of La Concepcion, near the resort city of Acapulco. Two of the dead were from the community force.

Later in the morning, state police arrived to disarm the local agents, and another shootout erupted in which three people were killed. Alvarez said he did not know how they

died, but local media said they were community police.

State Attorney General Xavier Olea Pelaez said 30 members of the community police were detained on suspicion of crimes including homicide and illegal weapons and drug possession.

Among those arrested was Marco Antonio Suastegui, the founder of the community force and the leader of a social movement that for over a decade has fought against a hydroelectric project in the region.

Photojournalist Bernardino Hernandez said that while covering the violence he was beaten, kicked and dragged by state police and forcibly relieved of his camera's memory cards. He also witnessed several other journalists being treated roughly.

Hernandez said he had photographed police using force against locals who tried to prevent the arrest of the community agents: "Some people were dragged by the hair to take them away."

Hernandez is a regular contributor of photographs to The Associated Press but was not on assignment for AP at the time.

Guerrero has been one of Mexico's most violent states in recent years, home to marijuana and opium poppy fields as well as warring organized crime gangs.

It's also where 43 teachers college students disappeared in 2014 after being taken by police from the city of Iguala who allegedly handed them over to a drug cartel. They remain missing.

In the northern state of Baja

California Sur, prosecutors said in a statement that marines responding Saturday night to reports of gunfire in San Jose del Cabo came upon heavily armed men wearing tactical vests and riding in two vehicles with license plates from the U.S. state of California.

Both vehicles sped off with the marines in pursuit and subsequently crashed, the statement said. In two separate exchanges of gunfire, all seven of the cars' occupants were shot dead by marines.

Baja California Sur has also seen an explosion of violence as the Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels battle for territory in the state. In late December, four bodies were found hanging from highway overpasses in the resort-studded Los Cabos area.

Focus

NASA: Legendary astronaut, moonwalker John Young has died

Legendary astronaut John Young, who walked on the moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, has died, NASA said Saturday. Young was 87.

The space agency said Young died Friday night at home in Houston following complications from pneumonia.

NASA called Young one of its pioneers—the only agency astronaut to go into space as part of the Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs, and the first to fly into space six times. He was the ninth man to walk on the moon.

“Astronaut John Young’s storied career spanned three generations of spaceflight,” acting NASA administrator Robert Lightfoot said in an emailed statement. “John was one of that group of early space pioneers whose bravery and commitment sparked our nation’s first great achievements in space.”

Young was the only space-man to span NASA’s Gemini, Apollo and shuttle programs, and became the first person to rocket away from Earth six times. Counting his take-off from the moon in 1972 as commander of Apollo 16, his blastoff tally stood at seven, for decades a world record.

He flew twice during the two-man Gemini missions of the mid-1960s, twice to the moon during NASA’s Apollo program, and twice more aboard the new space shuttle Columbia in the early 1980s.

His NASA career lasted 42 years, longer than any other astronaut’s, and he was revered among his peers for his dogged dedication to keeping crews safe—and his outspokenness in challenging the space agency’s status quo.

Chastened by the 1967 Apollo launch pad fire that killed three astronauts, Young spoke up after the 1986 shuttle Challenger launch accident. His hard scrutiny continued well past shuttle Columbia’s disintegration during re-entry in 2003.

“Whenever and wherever I found a potential safety issue, I always did my utmost to make some noise about it, by memo or whatever means might best bring attention to it,” Young wrote in his 2012 memoir, “Forever Young.”

He said he wrote a “mountain of memos” between the two shuttle accidents to “hit



people over the head.” Such practice bordered on heresy at NASA.

Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins, who orbited the moon in 1969 as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked its surface, considered Young “the memo-writing champion of the astronaut office.” Young kept working at Johnson Space Center in Houston “long after his compatriots had been put out to pasture or discovered other green fields,” Collins wrote in the foreword of “Forever Young.”

Indeed, Young remained an active astronaut into his early 70s, long after all his peers had left, and held on to his role as NASA’s conscience until his retirement in 2004.

“You don’t want to be politically correct,” he said in a 2000 interview with The Associated Press. “You want to be right.”

Young was in NASA’s second astronaut class, chosen in 1962, along with the likes of Neil Armstrong, Pete Conrad and James Lovell.

Young was the first of his group to fly in space: He and Mercury astronaut Gus Gris-

som made the first manned Gemini mission in 1965. Unknown to NASA, Young smuggled a corned beef sandwich on board, given to him by Mercury astronaut Wally Schirra. When it came time to test NASA’s official space food, Young handed Grissom the sandwich as a joke.

The ensuing scandal over that corned beef on rye—two silly minutes of an otherwise triumphant five-hour flight—always amazed Young. Sandwiches already had flown in space, Young said in his book, but NASA brass and Congress considered this one a multimillion-dollar embarrassment and outlawed corned beef sandwiches in space forever after.

Two years later, with Gemini over and Apollo looming, Young asked Grissom why he didn’t say something about the bad wiring in the new Apollo 1 spacecraft. Grissom feared doing so would get him fired, Young said. A few weeks later, on Jan. 27, 1967, those wires contributed to the fire that killed Grissom, Edward White II and Roger Chaffee in a countdown practice on their

Cape Canaveral launch pad.

It was the safety measures put in place after the fire that got 12 men, Young included, safely to the surface of the moon and back.

“I can assure you if we had not had that fire and rebuilt the command module ... we could not have done the Apollo program successfully,” Young said in 2007. “So we owe a lot to Gus, and Rog and Ed. They made it possible for the rest of us to do the almost impossible.”

Young orbited the moon on Apollo 10 in May 1969 in preparation for the Apollo 11 moon landing that was to follow in a couple months. He commanded Apollo 16 three years later, the next-to-last manned lunar voyage, and walked on the moon.

He hung on for the space shuttle, commanding Columbia’s successful maiden voyage in 1981 with co-pilot Robert Crippen by his side. It was a risky endeavor: Never before had NASA launched people on a rocket ship that had not first been tested in space. Young pumped his fists in jubilation after emerging

This undated photo made available by NASA shows astronaut John Young. NASA says the astronaut, who walked on the moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, died on Friday, Jan. 5, 2018. He was 87.

from Columbia on the California runway, following the two-day flight.

Crippen called flying with Young “a real treat.”

“Anybody who ever flew in space admired John,” said Crippen, a close friend who last spoke to him a few months ago.

Young made his final trek into orbit aboard Columbia two years later, again as its skipper.

Young’s reputation continued to grow, even after he stopped launching. He spoke out on safety measures, even before the Challenger debacle.

“By whatever management methods it takes, we must make Flight Safety first. If we do not consider Flight Safety first all the time at all levels of NASA, this machinery and this program will NOT make it,” he warned colleagues.

As then chief of the astronaut corps, Young was flying a shuttle training aircraft high above Kennedy Space Center when Challenger ruptured. He took pictures of the nose-diving crew cabin. The seven Challenger astronauts never knew of all the dangerous O-ring seal trouble leading up to their flight. “If I had known these things, I would have made them aware, that’s for damn sure,” Young wrote in his book.

Young noted that even his friends at NASA considered him “doom and gloom,” and that a shuttle launch “always scared me more than it thrilled me.”

He always thought the probability was there for a space shuttle accident, he observed in his autobiography, given that it was “such an incredibly complex machine.”

“It wasn’t pessimism. It was just being realistic,” he wrote.

Yet Young maintained that NASA and the nation should accept an occasional space-flight failure, saying it’s worth the risk.

“I really believe we should be operating (the shuttle), flying it right now, because there’s just not a lot we can do to make it any better,” Young said in 2004, a year after the Columbia tragedy. Another year passed before shuttle flights resumed.

Throughout the 1990s and into the 2000s, Young maintained the United States should be doing two to three times the amount of space exploration that it was doing. NASA should be developing massive rockets to lift payloads to the moon to industrialize it, he said, and building space systems for detecting and deflecting comets or asteroids that could threaten Earth.

“The country needs it. The world needs it. Civilization needs it,” Young said in 2000, adding with a chuckle, “I don’t need it. I’m not going to be here that long.”

In his book, Young noted that his “relentless” stream of memos about volcanic super-eruptions and killer asteroids was aimed at scaring and educating at the same time. Humans need to start living off the planet in order to save the species, he stressed again and again, pointing to the moon. “Some folks surely regarded me as a crackpot,” he wrote. “But that didn’t stop me.”

Young spent his last 17 years at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston in management, focusing on safety issues. He retired at the end of 2004, seven months shy of NASA’s return to space following the Columbia accident.

Young was born Sept. 24, 1930 and grew up in Orlando, Florida. He became interested early on in aviation, making model planes. He spent his last high school summer working on a surveying team. The job took him to Titusville due east of Orlando; he never imagined that one day he would be sitting on rockets across the Indian River, blasting off for the moon.

He earned an aeronautical engineering degree from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1952 and went on to join the Navy and serve in Korea as a gunnery officer. He eventually became a Navy fighter pilot and test pilot.

Young received more than 100 major accolades in his lifetime, including the prestigious Congressional Space Medal of Honor in 1981.

Even after leaving NASA, he worked to keep the space flame alive, noting in his official NASA biography that he was continuing to advocate the development of technologies “that will allow us to live and work on the moon and Mars.”

“Those technologies over the long (or short) haul will save civilization on Earth,” he warned in his NASA bio, almost as a parting shot.

Overdrive

Land Rover Discovery: More civilized but still ready to rock

By **BARRY SPYKER**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The familiar Discovery nameplate returns for 2018 but it bears little resemblance to its ancestors. Its design is smooth and fresh, and its road manners are far better. Yeah, welcome back, Discovery.

The SUV formerly known as the LR4, now in its fifth generation, has evolved into a more family-friendly animal. Its old boxy shape has been replaced with softer, rounded curves in front and rear. It's more comfortable, with 16-way adjustable seats. And there is advanced technology to simplify your life, like a trailer-assist feature and remote-folding seats that can be adjusted from a smartphone.

But don't worry, Land Rover purists. The lighter, more nimble Discovery is still plenty rugged off the beaten path. An all-terrain system monitors off-road territory every 100 milliseconds and adjusts traction, throttle and steering response. And this bad boy can wade through 35.4 inches of water, aided by electronic air suspension and 11 inches of ground clearance. It can even "breathe" while the grille is below the surface.

Discovery, known by Rover lovers as the

Disco, hit the showrooms over the summer. Its aluminum body enabled it to shed more than 1,000 pounds though it's not exactly svelte with a curb weight of around 4,900 pounds.

Two engines are available in the U.S., one of them a 3.0-liter turbodiesel V-6. It gets 254 horses but an ox-like 443 pound-feet of torque, and is capable of towing 8,200 pounds. To introduce the 2018 model, the Td6 actually towed a 121-ton, seven-trailer semi-truck in a wild demonstration in Australia. So, yeah, this SUV can haul.

There's a \$2,000 premium for the diesel engine but it'll pay back with better fuel economy—23 mpg city/highway compared to 18 mpg with gas engine.

Still, many in the U.S. may prefer the added highway punch of the 3.0-liter supercharged V-6. It produces 340 hp, 332 pound-feet of torque and gets to 60 mph in under seven seconds. Both engines are mated to Land Rover's familiar, smooth-shifting 8-speed automatic transmission.

On the road, Disco feels like a family hauler now, with a compliant ride and four-corner air suspension that does a good job of soaking up potholes and railroad tracks. While cornering used to be a white-knuckle experience for passengers, the still-tallish Discov-

ery now manages them without worry.

That air suspension also helps folks get in and out by—get this—lowering Discovery about an inch whenever a door is opened. Classy, huh?

Off the road, few foes can compete with the Discovery. Performance on higher trims is enhanced with a 2-speed transfer case with active locking center differential, hill-descent and rock-crawl controls. A terrain response system adjusts driving dynamics for pavement, sand, mud and snow. It has an approach angle of 29.5 degree and a departure angle of 28 degrees.

Inside, you'll see elegant leather seats, high-quality materials throughout, and a dash design not unlike the more plush Range Rover. There is seating for seven in the HSE Luxury, with ample head and shoulder room. The second row is tighter on leg and foot room and those seats only slide back and forth manually.

The power-folding system allows rear seat backs to be folded or raised via a smartphone app—a cool feature to show the neighbors—as well as from the InControl infotainment screen. Headrests can be folded, too, for better rear visibility.

New for 2018 is an interactive driver display cluster with 3D graphics. An optional head-up display has more functions and

crisper graphics. But the 10-inch touchscreen system is somewhat sluggish from the start-up and in response to commands. It gets the job done but requires some patience.

A 14-speaker Meridian sound system is superb, and a rear entertainment system is available for long hauls or to keep little darlings quiet.

Cubbies for stuff are everywhere and there are about a dozen USB ports among the three rows. The center-console pit is big enough for his and her laptops. And cargo room is competitive for the segment: 45 cubic feet with the rear seats up, 82 cubes with them all folded.

Discovery HSE Luxury also is laden with tech safety features, including adaptive cruise control with autonomous emergency braking, lane keep assist, lane departure warning, blind spot monitor and driver drowsiness monitor.

Discovery has come a long way from its days as a capable but simple, boxy, top-heavy beast. Yeah, it still claws its way over boulders and tows semi-trucks, but the ol' Disco has learned some new road tricks.

Barry Spyker was the automotive columnist for The Miami Herald and editor of its Wheels & Waves section. Readers may send him email at spy2351@yahoo.com.

FACTBOX: 2017 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY HSE LUXURY TD6

- **Base Price:** \$65,950
- **As tested:** \$79,950 — includes Drive Pro Package (\$2,350), All Terrain package (\$1,250), Rear Seat Entertainment (\$2,270), Vision Assist (\$1,000)
- **What's all the excitement about?** Land Rover slaps the Discovery nameplate on a more civilized, family-friendly SUV; seats can even be power-folded via a smartphone app
- **Powertrain:** 3.0 liter turbocharged 6-cylinder diesel with 254 hp and 443 pound-feet of torque; 3.0-liter supercharged gas-engine V-6 also is available
- **How's the performance?** Steady, quiet and powerful enough to tow 8,200 pounds
- **What about fuel economy?** EPA-rated at 23 mpg combined (21 city, 26 highway)



Land Rover
Discovery
TNS

Under the Hood: Don't leave on the headlights

Q I enjoy reading your column in my Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer. My question: Does it weaken the car's battery if the headlight (not DRL) switch is in the "on" position when the car is being started? Someone I know leaves the headlights on when shutting off the engine, so that they don't forget to turn them on next time they start up. Seems to me this is a needless drain on the battery. But then I wonder if that is correct, as some late-model cars shut off at idle for traffic lights, etc., in order to save fuel and help with emissions.

— Eric P. Audubon, N.J.

A I'm a bit confused by what you're asking. It's best to not have any vehicle lights or accessories on/active when starting the engine, especially during cold weather. The objective is to allow the battery to do two things only, supply needed current to the engine's fuel and ignition management systems and starter motor. If one had a robust, fully charged battery, during warm weather, it wouldn't be a big deal. The ignition switch in most vehicles momentarily cancels accessories as the engine is cranked, for this reason. Cold weather is a tough situation, as battery performance is reduced and cranking a cold engine requires more juice.

I wonder if your friend is leaving the headlight switch in

By **BRAD BERGHOLDT**

Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



"auto," this wouldn't be a problem at all. You sure wouldn't want to leave the headlights truly on while parked because after two to three hours the engine would likely not start. Vehicles employing stop-start engine management closely watch electrical consumption while off and may either suspend the feature or cut it short if battery strength falls or climate control needs are high.

Speaking of stop-start, I did receive a fair number of comments regarding this feature. Many don't care for it and have found by only lightly depressing the brake pedal when stopping they can suspend operation. I wonder if this could result in fewer rear-end collisions? Sunny loves the feature in her 2017 Lincoln MKZ because it can be turned off continuously!

George says his two vehicles (2015 Mercedes S550 and 2016 GLC) do stop-start so smoothly he can't imagine why anyone wouldn't like it. Finally, Dana likes how it works in his 2015 Ford F-150 because he can depress the brake deeply at long stop lights stopping the engine or lightly for short stops, and it keeps running. Dana says after you get used to the feature it feels odd to sit at a stoplight in other vehicles that keep the engine running!

Q Reading your column in the Dec. 17 Dubuque, Telegraph Herald. You say that running the A/C compressor reduces gas mileage by perhaps 1-2 MPG. That is probably true with belt driven compressors. I used to be able to feel the change in older cars. But now we drive cars with electric motor driven compressors (Toyota Hybrids). Is the same effect at play there? I can't tell when the A/C kicks in or out.

— Wayne C.

A Great idea looking at this from a hybrid/electric angle! The electricity needed to run your a/c compressor will still require gasoline to make the electricity, or utilize power company electricity, and the horsepower needed to turn the compressor likely isn't significantly different than a belt driven unit. I've noticed perhaps a 15 percent decrease in driving range in my '17 Chevy Volt when using the defroster (A/C compressor running) along with some heat—when it works....

Life & Style

Oprah, 'Big Little Lies' triumph at black-draped Globes

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

With a red carpet dyed black by actresses dressed in a color-coordinated statement, the Golden Globes were transformed into an A-list expression of female empowerment in the post-Harvey Weinstein era. Oprah Winfrey led the charge.

"For too long women have not been heard or believed if they dared to speak their truth to the power of those men," said Winfrey, accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement. "But their time is up. Their time is up!"

More than any award handed out Sunday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, Winfrey's moment—one greeted by a rousing, ongoing standing ovation, one that left many attendees and viewers in tears—encapsulated the mood at an unusually powerful Golden Globes. The night served as Hollywood's fullest response yet to the sexual harassment scandals that have roiled the film industry and laid bare its gender inequalities.

"A new day is on the horizon!" promised Winfrey, who noted she was the first black woman to be given the honor.

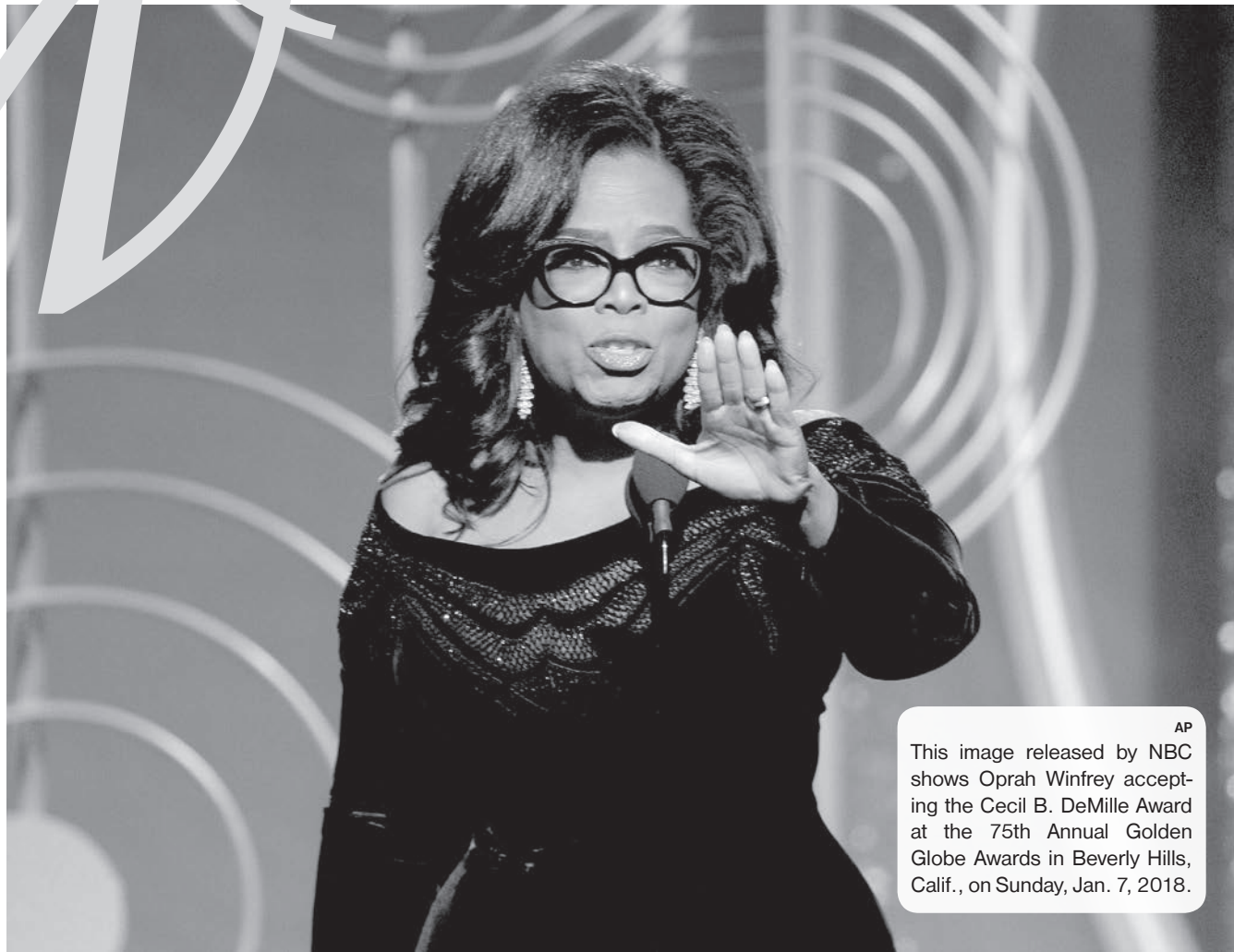
With a cutting stare, presenter Natalie Portman followed Winfrey's speech by introducing, as she said, "the all-male" nominees for best director.

Host Seth Meyers opened the night by diving straight into material about the sex scandals. "Good evening ladies and remaining gentlemen," he began. In punchlines on Weinstein—"the elephant not in the room"—Kevin Spacey and Hollywood's deeper gender biases, Meyers scored laughs throughout the ballroom, and maybe a sense of release.

"For the male nominees in the room tonight, this is the first time in three months it won't be terrifying to hear your name read out loud," said Meyers.

The first award of the night, perhaps fittingly, went to one of Hollywood's most powerful women: Nicole Kidman, for her performance in HBO's "The Big Little Lies," a series she and Reese Witherspoon also produced. She chalked the win up to "the power of women."

"Big Little Lies," which came in the leading TV nominee, won four awards, including best limited series and best supporting actress for Laura Dern. Like seven other female stars, Dern walked the red carpet with a women's rights activist as part of



AP
This image released by NBC shows Oprah Winfrey accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018.

an effort to keep the Globes spotlight trained on sexual harassment. Dern was joined by farmworker advocate Monica Ramirez, Michelle Williams with "Me Too" founder Taran Burke, and Meryl Streep with domestic worker advocate Ai-jen Poo.

"May we teach all of our children that speaking out without fear of retribution is our new North Star," said Dern, accepting her Globe.

Other winners continued the theme. Amazon's recently debuted "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," about a 1950s housewife who takes up stand-up comedy, won best TV series comedy, and best actress for Rachel Brosnahan. Elisabeth Moss, accepting an award for her performance in Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," movingly dedicated her award to Margaret Atwood, whose book the show is based on, and the women who came before her. "The Handmaid's Tale" later added the award for best TV series, drama.

"We no longer live in the blank white spaces at the edge of print," said Moss, referencing Atwood's prose. "We no longer live in the gaps between the stories. We are the stories in print and we are writing the stories ourselves."

Hollywood's awards season is seen as wide open, but the early returns Sunday were good for one leading nominee: the revenge black com-

edy "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." Sam Rockwell won for best supporting actor and writer-director Martin McDonagh won for best screenplay. Also successful was Guillermo del Toro's Cold War-era fantasy "The Shape of Water," which won for its score and del Toro's directing. The emotional Mexican-born filmmaker wiped back tears and managed to quiet the music

that urged him off.

Best actor in a comedy or musical went to James Franco for his performance as the infamous "The Room" filmmaker Tommy Wiseau. Franco dragged his co-star and brother, Dave, to the stage and called up Wiseau. When the Wiseau, wearing his trademark sunglasses, got to the stage, he moved for the microphone before Franco turned

him back. "Whoa, whoa, whoa," said Franco as the audience chuckled.

The Globes had long been the stomping grounds of disgraced mogul Weinstein, whose downfall precipitated allegations against James Toback, Kevin Spacey and many others. Weinstein presided over two decades of Globes winners and was well-known for his savvy manipulation of

the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the 89-member group that puts on the Globes.

Though it bills itself as Hollywood's biggest party, the Golden Globes stroke a slightly more formal, Oscar-like tone, complete with moments of appreciation for movie legends. Kirk Douglas, 101, appearing with his daughter-in-law, Catherin Zeta-Jones, received a warm standing ovation.

Best foreign language film went to Germany's "In the Fade." Allison Janney took best supporting actress in a comedy for the Tonya Harding tale "I, Tonya." Aziz Ansari took best actor in a comedy series for his Netflix show "Master of None."

Best animated film went to the Pixar release "Coco." Pixar co-founder John Lasseter is taking a "six-month sabbatical" after acknowledging "missteps" in his workplace behavior. Backstage Sunday, "Coco" director Lee Unkrich was asked about changes at Pixar. "We can all be better," he said. "We have been taking steps and continue to move forward to create art."

Sunday night's black-clad demonstration was promoted by the recently formed Time's Up: an initiative of hundreds of women in the entertainment industry—including Streep, Williams, Dern and Winfrey—who have banded together to advocate for gender parity in executive ranks and legal defense aid for sexual harassment victims.

Ashley Judd, the first big name to go on record with her Weinstein experience, and Salma Hayek, who last month penned an op-ed about her nightmare with Weinstein, arrived together.

"We feel sort of emboldened in this particular moment to stand together in a thick black line," Streep said.

"It's not a fashion statement. It's a solidarity statement," said "The Crown" actress Claire Foy.

Just about everyone, woman and man, celebrity and red-carpet reporters, was dressed in black Sunday, many of them wearing a Time's Up pin. "This Is Us" star Chris Sullivan even sported black fingernails. Later, his co-star Sterling K. Brown won for best drama actor. Brown, the first black man to win the category, thanked "This Is Us" creator Dan Fogelman.

"You wrote a role for a black man that can only be played by a black man," said Brown. "I'm being seen for who I am."

List of winners for 75th annual Golden Globe Awards

List of winners for the 75th annual Golden Globe Awards, announced Sunday by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association:

MOTION PICTURE

■ Motion Picture, Drama: "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."

■ Actor, Motion Picture, Drama: Gary Oldman, "Darkest Hour."

■ Actress, Motion Picture, Drama: Frances McDormand, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."

■ Director, Motion Picture: Guillermo Del Toro, "The Shape of Water."

■ Supporting Actor, Motion Picture: Sam Rockwell, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."

■ Supporting Actress, Motion Picture: Allison Janney, "I, Tonya."

■ Motion Picture, Musical

or Comedy: "Lady Bird."

■ Actor, Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy: James Franco, "The Disaster Artist."

■ Actress, Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy: Saoirse Ronan, "Lady Bird."

■ Screenplay: Martin McDonagh, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."

■ Original Score: Alexandre Desplat, "The Shape of Water."

■ Original Song: "This is Me," from "The Greatest Showman," music by Benj Pasek, Justin Paul, lyrics by Benj Pasek, Justin Paul.

■ Animated Film: "Coco."

■ Foreign Language: "In the Fade."

TELEVISION

■ Series, Drama "The Handmaid's Tale."

■ Actor, Drama: Sterling K. Brown, "This is Us,"

■ Actress, Drama: Elisabeth Moss, "The Hand-

maid's Tale."

■ Series, Musical or Comedy: "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."

■ Actor, Series, Musical or Comedy: Aziz Ansari, "Master of None."

■ Actress, Series, Musical or Comedy: Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."

■ Television, Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for TV: "Big Little Lies."

■ Actress, Limited Series or TV Movie: Nicole Kidman, "Big Little Lies."

■ Supporting Actress, Series, Limited Series or TV Movie: Laura Dern, "Big Little Lies."

■ Supporting Actor, Series, Limited Series or TV Movie: Alexander Skarsgard, "Big Little Lies."

■ Actor, Limited Series for Motion Picture Made for TV: Ewan McGregor, "Far-go." (AP)

'Jumanji,' 'Insidious' top 'Star Wars' in its fourth weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Move over, "Star Wars," there are some new box office champs this weekend. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" has topped the charts after three weekends in theaters, and newcomer "Insidious: The Last Key" opened in second, pushing "The Last Jedi" into third place. Columbia Pictures says Sunday that the Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart-led "Jumanji" is estimated to have earned an additional \$36 million this weekend, bringing its total to \$244.4 million.

"This is all about 'Jumanji's' staying power," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for box office tracker comScore. "This is

a movie that was overshadowed by all the excitement around 'The Last Jedi,' and yet 'Jumanji' just kept plugging away and drawing audiences throughout the holiday ... This is kind of unheard of for a movie this size."

In second place is the horror film "Insidious: The Last Key," the fourth in the franchise, which earned \$29.3 million. The Universal and Blumhouse Pictures film even outperformed the third chapter in the series. That film launched to \$22.7 million in June of 2015.

"We could not be more thrilled with that debut. It's a fantastic result," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of do-



AP
From left, American actor Dwayne Johnson, British actress Karen Gillan, and American director Jake Kasdan pose for photos on the red carpet before a press conference for the movie 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle' in Beijing, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018.

The Winston Churchill film "Darkest Hour" starring Gary Oldman (who is up for a best actor Golden Globe) also added 790 theaters and took in \$6.4 million.

The weekend is up around 18 percent from the same weekend last year, which Dergarabedian sees as a sign that perhaps the 2018 box office will be stronger and more steady than 2017.

"2017 was not consistent. It was volatile, it was a roller-coaster," Dergarabedian said. "This sets the tone for what we're hoping is a consistent and strong 2018 box office."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Final 'Game of Thrones' season will air in 2019

NEW YORK (AP)—The final season of "Game of Thrones" will feature veterans of the show behind the scenes when it airs in 2019.

HBO said Thursday that David Benioff, D.B. Weiss, David Nutter and Miguel Sapochnik will direct and Benioff and Weiss along with Bryan Cogman and Dave Hill will write the episodes. They will collaborate on the six-episode, eighth

and last season.

Weiss and Benioff have been co-creators, executive producers and showrunners for every season of the hit show. The others have all had roles creating the mythical world of author George R. R. Martin.

When season seven ended late last year, an all-time high of 12.1 million viewers tuned in. An additional 4 million caught the episode on streaming channels.

mestic distribution. "The release date worked in our favor. There hasn't been a similar film in a couple of months."

Young audiences drove the "Insidious" box office with 59 percent under the age of 25. Whether or not they enjoyed the film is another question: It got a scary B- CinemaScore.

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" fell to third place with \$23.6 million in its fourth weekend in theaters. The space block-

buster has grossed \$572.5 million to date.

"The Greatest Showman" took fourth place with \$13.8 million and "Pitch Perfect 3" rounded out the top five with \$10.2 million.

Awards seasons films continue to expand throughout January, too, like Aaron Sor-

kin's directorial debut "Molly's Game," which added over 1,300 theaters this weekend and took in \$7 million. The Jessica Chastain-starrer about the real life "poker princess" Molly Bloom is up for two Golden Globe awards Sunday evening—best actress and best screenplay.

1. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$36 million (\$70 million international).	7. "Molly's Game," \$7 million (\$5.1 million international).	2. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$70 million.
2. "Insidious: The Last Key," \$29.3 million (\$20.1 million international).	8. "Darkest Hour," \$6.4 million (\$1.8 million international).	3. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," \$23.6 million (\$64.7 million international).
3. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," \$23.6 million (\$64.7 million international).	9. "Coco," \$5.5 million (\$19.9 million international).	4. "The Greatest Showman," \$13.8 million (\$24 million international).
4. "The Greatest Showman," \$13.8 million (\$24 million international).	10. "All the Money in the World," \$3.6 million (\$5.1 million international).	5. "Ferdinand," \$7.7 million (\$23.3 million international).
5. "Pitch Perfect 3," \$10.2 million (\$18.1 million international).	Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:	6. "Insidious: The Last Key," \$20.1 million.
6. "Ferdinand," \$7.7 million (\$23.3 million international).	1. "Ex-File 3 (Qian Ren 3)," \$78.9 million.	7. "Coco," \$19.9 million.
		8. "Pitch Perfect 3," \$18.1 million.
		9. "Along With the Gods: The Two Worlds," \$11.8 million.
		10. "Going Vertical," \$9.7 million.

Miss America raises maximum age of competitors to 25

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—The Miss America organization is raising the maximum age of contestants from 24 to 25.

A spokeswoman told The Press of Atlantic City that the change takes effect with this year's contests. It's the first change to pageant rules since former Fox News Channel

anchor and 1989 Miss America Gretchen Carlson became chairwoman of the organization's board of directors.

Spokeswoman Chelsea Mineur said Miss America officials drafted the new rule. It's meant to allow more young women pursuing advanced degrees to benefit from the program.

Carlson was named chairwoman on New Year's Day. That came less than two weeks after leaked emails surfaced showing CEO Sam Haskell and others disparaging the appearance and intellect of former Miss Americas.

Haskell resigned Dec. 23. Most of the previous board members also have resigned.

Mother laments that her kids lack accomplishment and drive

DEAR ABBY: I have grown children. All of them are underachievers. When contemporaries talk about their children getting jobs, getting married, having kids, going on vacation, buying a house/car, adopting a pet, I have nothing to contribute.

My children do not have lives; they work low-paying jobs and scrape by. Worse, they have no ambition to do better. They no longer live with me, but often gather at each other's places to play video games when they are not working. They are not enjoyable to be around.

My life is otherwise good, and I don't want them bringing me down. My marriage is solid, I work hard, we travel a few times a year and enjoy dining out and meeting with friends. We go to sporting events, live plays, concerts, movies, etc. What is a mother to do?

LET DOWN IN MISSOURI

DEAR LET DOWN: Your children are adults. If they were motivated, they would be doing more with their lives than playing video games and scraping by. Be glad they are independent and have good relationships with each other—it's a plus—and continue living your life. You can't live theirs for them. And please stop comparing them to the offspring of your friends and acquaintances. If you do, you will be happier.

DEAR ABBY: I have dear friends and neighbors I really enjoy who have asked me to water their plants and feed the cat when they're away, which is not very often. I enjoy doing these things, and so I always feel awkward when they bring home gifts of jewelry or give me money. I would prefer that they let me do these things for love and friendship, but I don't know how to make them stop giving me things.

Is there something polite I can say to let them know that they should just let me be their friend? I would prefer that to feeling as though I'm being paid for my services.

FOR LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP

DEAR FOR LOVE: Has it occurred to you that your neighbors bring things back for you because they enjoy giving as much as you enjoy doing things for them? If it hasn't, please consider it.

And afterward, if you still feel that their gifts are too much of a quid pro quo, explain that you like them very much and value their friendship, and they don't need to give you anything in return for the affection you feel for them. I don't think couching the message in those terms would be rude at all.

DEAR ABBY: Why do people stay in bad marriages? It causes emotional harm to the children (if they have kids), hearing their parents argue and name-call all the time. Wouldn't it

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



be better to separate?

UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

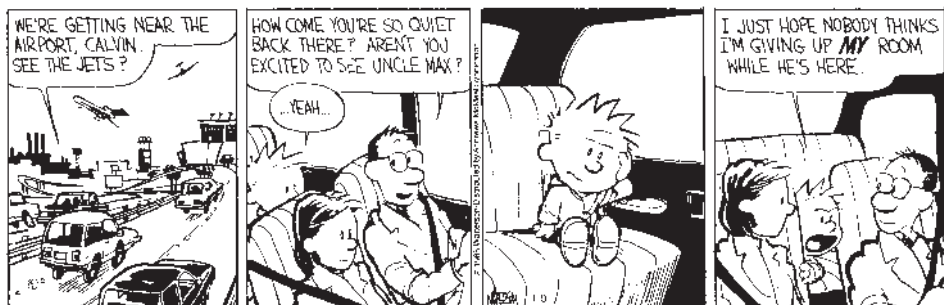
DEAR UNHEALTHY: Some couples remain in bad marriages because they can't afford to live apart or fear being alone if they divorce. Others have dysfunctional love-hate relationships that, I agree, are unhealthy for everyone, including the children who grow up thinking it is normal. In my opinion, if couples can't live in peace and harmony, they should separate. However, not everyone agrees.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



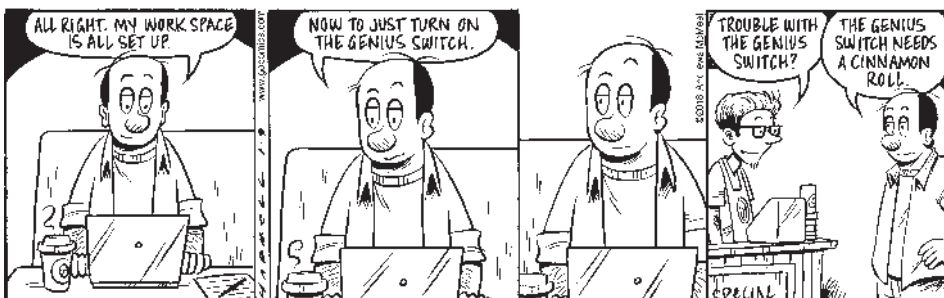
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



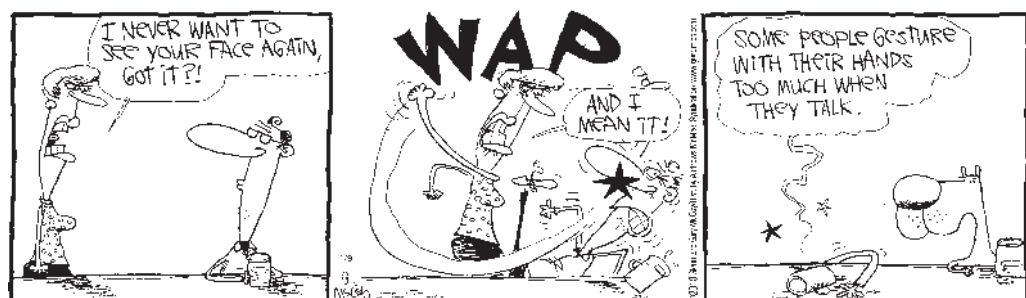
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Active person
5 In — (dazed)
9 Upper limit
12 Nullify
13 Serve tea
14 Hooter
15 "Piece of cake!"
17 Grazing land
18 Tarzan's clique
19 Light-headed
21 — -Saxon
24 Tittle
25 Ocho —, Jamaica
26 Corn-husker state
30 Year, in San Juan
31 "The Climb" singer
32 Charged bit
33 Vice
35 High-lander

DOWN

36 Curved lines
37 Sword fights
38 — nova
40 Panache
42 Scooted
43 Dull
48 Verb for you
49 Experts
50 Skin soother
51 Away from NNE
52 Pulverize potatoes
53 Sicilian peak
1 Expected
2 Stop — dime
3 Mag. staff
4 Kansas City team
5 Church area
6 Dandies
7 Overseas agree-ment?
8 Peck of Holly-wood
9 Very aloof
10 Dumb-struck
11 Stage show
16 GI's address
20 Call — day
37 — "Kapital"
38 Bikini parts
39 Galley supply
40 Peepers
41 Cilium
44 Sony rival
45 Last (Abbr.)
46 Junior
47 Earl Grey, e.g.

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	L	E	W	U	N	C	H	A	P
Y	E	S	A	N	D	N	O	H	E
L	O	C	K	D	O	W	N	E	R
S	P	U	N	K	P	E	E	R	S
A	N	G	A	R	M	L	O	C	K
L	I	D	A	V	A	N	T	G	E
L	O	C	K	E	T	S	T	R	E
K	A	I	U	N	A	D	O	E	
A	T	O	M	G	R	I	D	L	O
L	C	O	P	E	N	S	E	M	B
E	P	P	S	A	C	A	S	I	A

Yesterday's answer 1-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nina Dobrev, 29; Kate Middleton, 36; Dave Matthews, 51; Jimmy Page, 74.

Happy Birthday: Do your own research. Refuse to act on hearsay or to let your emotions take you in a direction that isn't normal for you to travel down. Question your motives and make decisions based on what is doable, not questionable. Hone your skills and find creative ways to use them. The more equipped you are to take on a challenge, the better. Your numbers are 4, 12, 19, 23, 28, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look at the big picture when it comes to dealing with your position, status and relationships with others. Take a wait-and-see approach instead of acting on assumptions. Focus on what you can do, not what you can't. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be tempted to get involved in a joint venture. Consider the risks involved as well as the likelihood that you may jeopardize your relationship. A change in your beliefs should be based on solid facts and proof. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Show patience with others instead of allowing yourself to be bored. Don't burn bridges, but don't neglect your desires, either. Find a way to satisfy your needs without disrupting a group effort. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore new possibilities. Don't feel like you have to stick to a routine, frequent the same places or continually spend time with the

same people. Variety is the spice of life, and it's time to see what's available. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Hold tight. You may feel inclined to make changes at home or work, but before you go down that path, consider the consequences. Appearing to be inconsistent or unpredictable will cause others to feel left out. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Share information and discuss plans. Get involved in the events or activities that are most interesting to you. Sign up for group endeavors, fitness classes or other health-oriented pastimes. You've got the discipline required to aim for perfection. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Consider new ways to bring in extra cash or review how you are getting along with your peers. A change of heart instigated by someone close to you can start a dispute that may be difficult to resolve. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have an agenda to fulfill, but before you leap in, consider your motives. Use your intelligence instead of brute force to bring about changes. Peace of mind will far outweigh winning unjustly. Personal growth is encouraged. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An unexpected turn of events looks promising. Network, get involved in organizations you believe in, or make intellectual changes that will boost your reputation. Personal improvements will enhance your popularity and open a window of opportunity. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A desire to act quickly or without preparation should be harnessed and reeled in. Mistakes will happen if you aren't positive or if you haven't done your research. A chance to get ahead is within reach. Strive to do what's right. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Observation is in your best interest. Knowing what's going on around you will make it easier to navigate your way to victory. Money, legal and health issues are best handled with less emotion and greater intelligence. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You've got everything under control. Don't back down or shy away. Step up and take over. The help you offer and the connections you gain will encourage you to get involved in an organization you feel drawn toward. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, outgoing and aggressive. You are emotional and unpredictable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7		3		9						
			5	6						3	
1			4	2				5			
						3	6				
5	8		4			7		9			
	4	2									
	3			8	4				5		
2					5	1					
		4		7			3				

Difficulty Level ★★

1/109

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	1	5	2	9	4	8	7	3
8	4	3	1	7	6	9	2	5
9	2	7	3	5	8	6	1	4
2	5	9	6	8	7	3	4	1
7	6	1	4	2	3	5	8	9
4	3	8	9	1	5	2	6	7
1	8	6	7	3	9	4	5	2
3	7	4	5	6	2	1	9	8
5	9	2	8	4	1	7	3	6

Bobby Lee ★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LIZ SMITH (1923-2017)

Solution: 11 letters

D N R I O M E M O L L Y L J C
E P Y T R E T R O P E R I O O
S D R A H C I R N N A A S U M
O B E N A T T A H N A M T R M
P E G T D U G I G S O O E N E
X E R O A A T E C P E T R A N
E M E W S I I H O O Y H W L T
D A A C O S L O R N E R I A
N N T B R E I S Y R G R I S R
O M E N D T D P S A X E T T Y
L K I W A M A G A Z I N E S P
B O A N S S M I T H D T R O F
G R A N D D E T A C I D N Y S
D N E W S P A P E R S H A R P
N A T U R A L Y S T H T R O W

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1/9

Ann Richards, Author, Beeman, Blonde, Commentary, Cosmopolitan, Daily, Dame, Details, Dish, Edward, Exposed, Fort, George, Gigs, Gossip, Grand, Great, Icon, Journalist, Lister, Magazines, Manhattan, Mary, Memoir, Mind, Molly, Mother, Natural, Newsday, Newspapers, Reporter, Sharp, Smith, Syndicated, Texas, Type, WNBC, Worth, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Engineered

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DUTIES: Provide general administrative support, including, but not limited to: performing clerical and customer service functions at the front desk; providing general information regarding membership benefits and addressing related inquiries; preparing correspondence; filing and organizing membership documents; ordering and maintaining an inventory of office supplies; posting and forwarding invoices and copies of purchase orders; and performing other administrative duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school or GED (associate’s degree preferred) and at least 2 years of related work experience. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Proficient in Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Submit a cover letter, resume, and 2 references to the Settlement Fund office in Capitol Hill, Saipan, or by email to info@nmisf.com by 5:00 p.m. on January 15, 2018.

For more information, visit <http://www.nmisf.com/rfp/employment/>.

Gemkell Saipan Corp.
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Inventory Planner (1)
High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards, with or without using a trolley, and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to drive Company provided vehicles. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate, full-time (6) and part-time (2)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes / application documents must be submitted **not later than 5:00PM on January 18, 2018**. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Registered Nurses: (09)

- Must pass NCLEX-RN with current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English language skills-proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-service training with Baxter Phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system

Hemodialysis Technicians: (7)

- Certificate from Junior College/Technician School in healthcare related field
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Three years hemodialysis experienced-preferred
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Water Treatment Technicians: (02)

- Must be able to perform task which may at first glance not appear difficult but required a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain system
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities, safety & life safety policies
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency text for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing techniques
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques, proper plumbing techniques when working with pressure vessels
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques especially when working with pvc
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned

Building Maintenance and Repair: (03)

- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing and security systems
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and petitions
- Installs solar panels with experience in the maintenance of pv models
- Maintains and repairs various equipment
- High school graduate or equivalent

Commercial Cleaners: (02)

- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, buffers, etc.
- Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-free condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings
- Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials
- Must handle various cleaning solvents and chemicals that is required by Medicare
- Damp dust furniture, light fixtures, windows, etc.
- Empty trash containers daily
- Clean and mop bathrooms daily. Mop all corridor floors, lobby and others floors daily
- Report any needed repairs immediately
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc., periodically, especially in patients’ areas and lobby
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping and post occupancy
- Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner at the business office, Dr.’s office, accounting office, dietician and clinic manager’s office
- Must be able to work flexible hours
- Must have own transportation

Interested applicant must submit resume or pick up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc. in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

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Classified Ads

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ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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thani**

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Richardson's layup lifts Heat past Jazz, 103-102



MIAMI (AP)—The last Miami play was designed by Heat coach Erik Spoelstra to put the ball in Josh Richardson's hands, and with it came the right to decide who would take his team's biggest shot of the game.

He chose himself.

It was the right call.

Richardson's layup with 5.1 seconds left capped a Miami rally from eight points down in the fourth. Donovan Mitchell missed a jumper for Utah at the buzzer and the Heat simply stole one in the final moments to beat the Utah Jazz 103-102 on Sunday.

"He drew it up for me and I was kind of surprised," Richardson said.

So surprised, in fact, that Richardson emerged from that huddle telling Wayne Ellington and Tyler Johnson to get ready for his pass. But a lane opened to the rim, Richardson laid the ball home and the Heat won their fourth straight—all by single digits, Miami's longest stretch of such wins since November 2012.

"Utah played a very good basketball game," Spoelstra said. "In many ways, they deserved to win this one. But we've got to make up some ground. We've given up some games that we wish we could have had back, so quite frankly we need to steal some."

Tyler Johnson and Goran Dragic each scored 16 points for Miami. Richardson and Hassan Whiteside each had 14, James Johnson 13 and Kelly Olynyk had 12.

Mitchell scored 19 of his 27 points in the second half, but couldn't save Utah from dropping its seventh straight on the road. He went into the backcourt to take the final inbound pass and wound up taking a jumper from the right side that missed as time expired.

Mitchell kicked himself afterward, realizing too late Rodney Hood might have been open.

"I should have made the right read instead of shooting it," Mitchell said.

Hood scored 17 points, Thabo Sefolosha added 13 and Derrick Favors 11 for the Jazz, who fell to 3-17 on the road.

"We obviously did a few things right," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "It doesn't feel like it right now."

Miami improved to 2-14 when trailing after three quarters.

The Heat led for 20 of the 24 first-half minutes, but their lead was only 49-47 at the break.

Suns 114, Thunder 100

In Phoenix, Dragan Bender



and Josh Jackson were fourth overall picks in the draft: Bender in 2016, Jackson in 2017.

Both are just 20 years old, and the jury is out on whether they deserved to go that high.

They sure looked good Sunday night, though.

Bender scored 17 of his career-high 20 points in the second half. Jackson had 17 points and 10 rebounds in the first double-double of his rookie season, and the Phoenix reserves played a big role in the Suns' victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"We're trying to develop young players here and they both stepped up big-time to-

day," Suns interim coach Jay Triano said. "I thought they played really well together. Josh would drive and kick and find Dragan on the perimeter and I think there's a comfort level really developing with those two."

Bender made a career-best six 3-pointers, going 5 of 6 in the second half. The Suns beat the Thunder for the third straight time dating to last season, with all three wins coming in Phoenix.

Russell Westbrook had his 14th triple-double of the season and second in a row with 26 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, but Oklahoma City never led after the first quar-

ter. Paul George added 19 points and Steven Adams 18 for the Thunder.

Devin Booker scored 26 and T.J. Warren 23 for Phoenix.

Lakers 132, Hawks 119

In Los Angeles, Brandon Ingram had 20 points and seven assists, and the Lakers snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 132-119 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday night.

Julius Randle had 15 points and nine rebounds in this sixth straight start, while Lonzo Ball finished with 13 points, 10 assists and six rebounds.

Dennis Schroder led the Hawks with 27 points on 10-of-23 shooting. Kent Baze-

more and John Collins added 15 points apiece.

Los Angeles led by as many as 26 points and enjoyed a strong shooting night. The Lakers made 55.8 percent of their field goals, and shot 44.4 percent from 3-point range.

Even free throws went in for the Lakers, who came into Sunday as the worst team in the league in that category. Los Angeles made 20 of 25.

The Hawks, on the other hand, shot just 43.6 percent from the field.

Los Angeles went on a 16-3 run in the opening minutes of the second quarter that culminated in a transition 3-pointer by Ball and a basket by Larry

AP
Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) goes to the basket between Utah Jazz guard Ricky Rubio (3) and center Ekpe Udoh (33) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018, in Miami.

Nance Jr. off a pass from Josh Hart. The lead quickly ballooned to 20 after another 3 by Ball and a layup by Kyle Kuzma.

Trail Blazers 111, Spurs 110

In Portland, CJ McCollum hit a floater with 5.9 seconds left to give the Portland Trail Blazers a 111-110 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday night with both teams short-handed.

McCollum finished with 25 points and Maurice Harkless added 19 off the bench for the Blazers, who were without starter Damian Lillard. It was Portland's fifth win in seven games, and third straight victory at home.

Former Blazer LaMarcus Aldridge had 30 points and 14 rebounds, while Manu Ginobili added 26 points, including six 3-pointers, for the Spurs.

Trailing by as many as 12 points in the third quarter, Portland rallied to lead 101-94 on Harkless' 3-pointer with 5:37 left. But Ginobili's 3 gave the Spurs a 105-103 lead with 2:48 left. He added another to extend the lead to 108-105.

McCollum's layup with 1:11 left gave the Blazers back a one-point edge, but he missed an off-balance jumper that would have given Portland some cushion.

After Kyle Anderson's free throws put San Antonio in front, McCollum came through with his floater that gave Portland the winning margin. Aldridge missed a jumper from out front as time ran out.

Knicks 100, Mavericks 96

In Dallas, Kristaps Porzingis scored 29 points and Jarrett Jack made the tiebreaking basket with 31.2 seconds left as New York beat Dallas.

Kyle O'Quinn had 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Enes Kanter added 13 points and 18 boards for the Knicks, who ended a three-game losing streak and sent the Mavericks to their third straight loss — all at home.

Harrison Barnes scored 25 points and Devin Harris had nine of his 11 in the fourth quarter as the Mavericks made yet another rally on the night they honored their long-time point guard Derek Harper by retiring his jersey.

LaVar tells ESPN Walton has lost Lakers; coaches react

Dallas Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle responded angrily Sunday after LaVar Ball's claim that the Los Angeles Lakers no longer want to play for coach Luke Walton.

Ball, the outspoken father of Lakers point guard Lonzo Ball, made his latest outlandish statement to ESPN for a story published Sunday. He said Walton is too young to coach and "has no control" of the team—comments that Walton said didn't bother him, but ones that clearly angered some of his NBA coaching colleagues.

Carlisle, the National Basketball Coaches Association president, called the ar-

ticle "a disgrace" and LaVar Ball's words an "ignorant distraction."

"ESPN is an NBA partner, and they've been a great one," Carlisle said. "Part of that partnership is the coaches do a lot of things to help them with access, interviews, all those kinds of things, and in exchange for that, they should back up the coaches. Printing an article where the father of an NBA player has an opinion that's printed as anything legitimate erodes trust. It erodes the trust that we built with ESPN, and our coaches are upset."

"Luke Walton does not deserve that," Carlisle added.

The Lakers were playing host to Atlanta on Sunday night, going into the game on a nine-game losing streak. At the team's morning shoot-around, Walton said he is certain that he has the support of the Lakers' front office and that he was mostly concerned that Lonzo Ball could be adversely affected by his father's comments.

"It doesn't bother me," Walton said. "My only concern with any of it is for Zo. As long as Zo is fine with it and Zo can come in and play and it doesn't affect mine and his relationship, then it doesn't bother me at all."

Walton said before the

game that some coaches have reached out to him after the comments.

"They're all on the same idea of it's our job as coaches to coach our teams and not be concerned with parents and what other people outside the organization think," Walton said. "A lot of them have shown their support as far as they know what it's like coaching young teams and from what they see, how hard our group plays, just like I do."

Lonzo Ball did not seem affected one way or another.

"He's going to speak his mind," Lonzo Ball said of his father. "He's not going to change."

Brees, Saints survive Panthers' late charge



NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Saints All-Pro defensive end Cameron Jordan

grinned playfully as he glanced up at a bottle of red wine in the top shelf of his locker and asked if anyone knew Carolina quarterback Cam Newton's address.

A bottle with the name "Jordan" on the label—even if it isn't made by the Saints star's family -- might be the last thing Newton wants right now.

Drew Brees and his receiving corps came through when Carolina stifled New Orleans' prolific backfield, and a relentless Jordan spearheaded a late defensive stand to seal a 31-26 an NFC wild-card round victory on Sunday.

"You can't be more happy about the way we played in terms of how we finished the game," Jordan said. "We almost let them back in the game, but here I am standing as winner. Here I am, as a Cam Jordan, sending Cam Newton a bottle of Jordan wine."

Brees passed for 376 yards and two touchdowns, but one more completion would have considerably lowered the stress level on the Saints' sideline. Coach Sean Payton kept the offense on the field on fourth-and-short with two minutes remaining and Carolina out of timeouts, hoping for one more first down that would have allowed New Orleans to run out the clock.

But Brees couldn't find an open receiver, was flushed out of the pocket and decided his best option was to throw it up for grabs. It was intercepted by safety Mike Adams, which turned out better for New Orleans than an incompletion



AP
New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) passes in the first half of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in New Orleans, Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018.

because it meant the Panthers had to start from their own 31 instead of mid-field.

Still, Newton completed three straight passes to move the Panthers to the Saints 26-yard line with 58 seconds left before New Orleans' resistance stiffened.

"I'm frustrated," Newton said. "I hate that I couldn't do enough to get a win today for a lot of guys that I think so highly of."

"I just have to be better," he added. "I'm not going to take the cowardly way and point somebody else out."

The comeback bid began to fizzle when Jordan induced an intentional grounding penalty on Newton, making it third-

and-25 on the Saints 34 and a requiring 10-second runoff that left 20 seconds on the clock.

After an incompletion in the end zone, Vonn Bell sacked Newton on a safety blitz, ensuring the Saints (12-5) swept all three meetings with Carolina (11-6) this season, in addition to winning the first postseason game they've played in four seasons.

"The coaches wanted to get the ball out of the quarterback's hands fast," Bell said. "They dialed it up and I said, 'Go make a play.'"

Brees' touchdowns went for 80-yards to Ted Ginn and 9 yards to tight end Josh Hill. Fullback Zach line and running back Alvin Kamara each

ran for short touchdowns, the latter set up by Michael Thomas' 46-yard reception.

"What we've shown offensively is we have a lot of ways to be effective," Brees said, mentioning clutch first-down catches by Brandon Coleman and Willie Snead in addition to the big plays by Ginn and Thomas. "The ball was spread around quite a bit and guys were making plays when they had the chances."

Thomas caught eight passes for 131 yards on a day when the Saints needed the passing game to compensate for a ground game that struggled to get going. Thomas said when he noticed the Panthers playing with one safety deep

instead of their usual two, "you're licking your chops with a quarterback like Drew Brees and the talent we have. We knew what we had to do and it was on the receivers."

Ginn, a former Panthers receiver, celebrated the sweep of his former team by holding up a broom in the locker room.

Helped by the presence of tight end Greg Olsen—who did not play in the teams' previous two meetings—Newton marched Carolina into Saints territory more often than not. But the Panthers stalled four times inside the New Orleans 25 in the first three quarters. They settled for four field goal attempts on those drives, one of which kicker Graham Gano

surprisingly missed from 25-yards.

Jordan called the Saints' red-zone stops "huge."

"Had half of those been touchdowns, we'd be sitting in a different spot," Jordan said.

Olsen had eight catches for 107 yards and a touchdown.

Newton finished 24 of 40 passing for 349 yards and two touchdowns, including a 56-yard scoring strike to Christian McCaffrey that pulled the Panthers within a touchdown with 4:09 left.

Saints running backs Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara, who combined for more than 3,000 yards from scrimmage this season, were held to 68 total yards.

Jaguars defense shines in ugly, 10-3 victory against Bills

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Blake Bortles never had a game like this.

Not in college. Not in high school. Not in peewee football. Not even in the backyard against family and friends.

Bortles put together one decent drive all day, doing as much with his legs as his arm, and the defensive-minded Jacksonville Jaguars eked out an ugly and sometimes unwatchable 10-3 victory against the Buffalo Bills in an AFC wild-card game Sunday.

Bortles became the second starting quarterback in the past 25 years to win a playoff game with more rushing yards (88) than passing (87). Atlanta's Michael Vick also did it against the St. Louis Rams in the 2004 playoffs.

"That's usually not ideal for

a quarterback," Bortles said.

It was enough to help the third-seeded Jaguars (11-6) get to the next round against No. 2 seed Pittsburgh.

The sixth-seeded Bills (9-8) will head home after ending the longest, current playoff drought in North American professional sports.

"We had bigger goals," Buffalo linebacker Preston Brown said. "Once we got in the dance, we didn't want to be one and done. We didn't want to treat this like a bowl game, go down to Florida and everybody relaxes. We wanted to move on."

"This really stings to lose in this way when you hold them to 10 points. We just didn't find a way to hold them to zero points to win the game."

Bortles was a big reason

Jacksonville won its first playoff game since January 2008. He was big reason it was so close, too.

This was far from a passing clinic. It was more like a painful exercise in overcoming poor passing.

Bortles made up for it with his scrambling ability. He had several long runs, with the highlight coming in the fourth quarter when he fumbled a shotgun snap, picked it up and outran two defenders for an 18-yard gain.

The play prompted a Bills assistant to slam his clipboard to the ground, which left Bortles smiling as he flipped the ball to an official.

"We weren't sharp. We made some bad plays and did some stupid stuff," Bortles said. "But we found a way to win,

and that's all that matters."

He completed 12 of 23 passes for 87 yards, with a touchdown. His TD pass to backup tight end Ben Koyack late in the third quarter was his best throw of the game. It also was a gutsy call on fourth-and-goal from the 1.

Bortles did the rest on the ground, picking up first downs and helping Jacksonville win its first playoff game at home since the 1999 season.

"He found a way," cornerback Aaron Colvin said. "You've got to find a way. Whatever it takes, we've got to get to these goals we talked about. All this work we put in in the offseason is for moments like this. For him to find a way and do it with his legs, I have the utmost respect for him."

The Bills had plenty of chances down the stretch, but a huge penalty against tight end Charles Clay, a dropped pass by Zay Jones and then a tackle that knocked quarterback Tyrod Taylor out of the game ended any threat of a comeback.

Taylor's helmet slammed hard against the ground after getting thrown down by Dante Fowler Jr. He had to be helped off the field, forcing backup Nathan Peterman into the game with 1:27 remaining.

All-Pro cornerback Jalen Ramsey tipped and then intercepted Peterman's third pass, and the Jaguars ran out the clock.

"I don't care what people call it, we got a playoff win," Ramsey said. "We're going to come to work for another week while other teams are

sitting home."

The Bills finished with 263 yards, 119 of those coming from hobbled running back LeSean McCoy (ankle). The Jags had a measly 230 yards, the team's third-fewest total of the season. Leonard Fournette ran 21 times for 57 yards.

Trailing 10-3 with about six minutes to play, the Bills looked as if they picked up a first down on an 11-yard pass from Tyrod Taylor to Clay. Jacksonville players standing on the sideline pointed to Clay's feet, and coach Doug Marrone threw the challenge flag. Officials overturned the completion, saying Clay was out of bounds and setting up a third-and-10 play from the Jacksonville 48-yard line. Linebacker Myles Jack sacked Taylor on the next play, forcing a punt.

Azarenka withdraws from Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Two-time champion Victoria Azarenka has withdrawn from the Australian Open, with her wildcard entry to the season's first major reallocated to Ajla Tomljanovic.

Australian Open organizers announced Azarenka's withdrawal in a social media post Monday, a week before the tournament begins.

"It's unfortunate that (Azarenka) is unable to travel to Australia this year," organizers posted on Twitter, quoting tournament director Craig Tiley. The Australian Open, "is her favorite tournament and she's looking forward to returning to Melbourne next year."

Azarenka, who won the Australian Open in 2012 and 2013, has been involved in a custody dispute involving her son Leo, who was born last Dec. 19.

She hasn't competed anywhere since Wimbledon, where she lost to Simona Halep in the fourth round on July 10.



Former No. 1-ranked Azarenka played only six matches in 2017 and her year-ending ranking plummeted to No. 208.

Australian Open organizers last month granted her a wildcard entry, with Tiley saying

at the time, "Vika's current situation is obviously very difficult for her and we have reached out to offer any support we can."

Azarenka had initially been



scheduled to make a return to competitive tennis in New Zealand last week, but withdrew from that tournament as well.

The Australian Open starts next Monday at

Two-time champion Victoria Azarenka has pulled out from the Australian Open.

Melbourne Park. Defending champion Serena Williams has already withdrawn, saying her game wasn't back to a level where she believed she could contend for the title just four months after giving birth to her first child.

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic will use the Kooyong Classic starting Tuesday as a convenient emergency stop to gain much-needed match practice as the pair return from injury in time for the Australian Open.

Not since the glory days of Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras nearly two decades ago and more recently Roger Federer, has the long-time exhibition event hosted as distinguished a field.

The upcoming edition will feature five of the world's top 10, including ATP Finals runner-up and two-time Kooyong champion David Goffin, Austrian Dominic Thiem, Croat Marin Cilic and Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta.

Under the ad-hoc rules, late additions Nadal and Djokovic

will be playing practice matches.

Nadal, who missed the warm-up Brisbane International last week with a knee injury, is set for just one appearance on Tuesday when he faces France's Richard Gasquet.

Djokovic, who hasn't played competitively since a right elbow problem forced him to quit Wimbledon in the quarterfinals in July, is due on court on Wednesday to play Thiem.

"The addition of both Novak and Rafa changes our schedule and the way we will run the four days but that's what Kooyong is all about, we are here to help the players get ready for the Open," said tournament director Peter Johnstone.

The women's draw, now into a second season after being introduced in 2017, includes new Hopman Cup champion Belinda Bencic of Switzerland, German Andrea Petkovic, Aussie teen Destanee Aiava and young Chinese star Wang Xinyu.

Pat Cash, the 1987 Australian Open winner who now coaches American CoCo Vandeweghe, serves as official ambassador for the event and said it would be good preparation for Djokovic and Nadal.

Jeter to be paid millions for making Marlins profitable



MIAMI—So far this off-season, the Miami Marlins have been gutting their roster in an effort to get the team's debt under control. Giancarlo Stanton, Marcell Ozuna, and Dee Gordon have all been traded away in cost-cutting moves, and it's possible others like Christian Yelich and Martin Prado will be moved before pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training.

The Bruce Sherman/Derek Jeter led ownership group completed their purchase of the Marlins a few weeks ago and they've maintained that cutting costs now is crucial to building a sustainable contender later. That's believable, sure. Then again, part of their long-term plan, "Project Wolverine," as it has been named, includes an expected increase in attendance revenue this coming season, and I'm not sure how that's going to happen.

Barry Jackson of the Miami Herald is currently in the middle of a five-part dissection of Project Wolverine, and in part three, Jackson explains that Jeter has a financial incentive to make the Marlins profitable. He'll be paid

seven-figure bonuses if the club turns a profit.

According to an August version of Project Wolverine—a document pitching potential investors on joining the Marlins ownership group and

shared with the Miami Herald by sources - Jeter will make an annual bonus based on the Marlins being profitable.

That bonus would pay him \$2 million in 2018, \$1.7 million in 2019, \$1.1 million in 2020, \$2 million in 2021 and \$2 million in 2022. The Marlins declined to say if the amount of those bonus payments were altered in subsequent versions of Wolverine.

Despite their financial problems, it is very likely the Marlins will turn a profit in 2018. The Stanton, Ozuna, and Gordon trades have cleared about \$45 million off the team's payroll for the upcoming season, putting them around \$95 million for the year. Also, all 30 teams will receive a \$50 million payout as part of MLB's sale of BAMTech, the league's digital arm, to Disney. The cost cutting combined with the \$50 million payout will likely put the Marlins in the black in 2018.



In this Oct. 3, 2017, file photo, Miami Marlins part owner Derek Jeter speaks during a press conference in Miami.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

game, *Marianas Variety* also snapped its three-game losing skid following a close 42-41 win over IT&E.

Quina Flores nailed back-to-back baskets, while Hyo Lim Cho, Mikky Kautz, and Tawnie Manibusan converted one field goal apiece to hand *Marianas Variety* the close victory—only the team's second in five games.

Kautz paced *Marianas Variety* with her 17 points, while Manibusan also had twin digits with 14, as their squad moved up to solo fourth

place in the team standings behind the unbeaten GSM Lady Ol'Aces (5-0), Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (4-1), and CTSI (3-2). CTSI was playing Fiesta Resort in the other girls division game last night and results of the match were unavailable at press time.

Also scheduled to play last night were the 670 Sonics XVIII (3-1) and Kanoa Resort (3-1) in the boys division.

Elimination games will resume tomorrow with Saipan Vegas Elite aiming for its second win as it challenges the undefeated M&M Salas Ol'Aces (4-0) in the first tiff at 5pm. In the second game

at 6pm, it will be the GSM Lady Ol'Aces versus IT&E, while the last two matches will have *Marianas Variety* facing Shirley's Coffee Shop at 7pm, and 670 Sonics XVI dueling Saipan Vegas Extreme at 8pm.

The boys division has a round-robin format in the elimination, while format for the girls field is double round. After the elimination, only the Top 4 teams in each division will advance to the playoffs, which will begin on Jan. 27.

First Game

Saipan Vegas Elite 58 — Laxa 17, Ogasawara 9, Pangelinan 6, T. Quitagua 6, Deleon

Guerrero 4, Olopai 4, Elchico 3, N. Quitagua 3, Roligat 3.

Saipan Vegas Extreme 57 — Atan 13, Laniyo 10, King 9, Menchor 5, Naraja 4, Okaruru 4, Tisa 4, Kim 4, Norita 2, Lahara 2.

Scoring by halves: 35-32, 58-57.

Second Game

Marianas Variety 42 — Kautz 17, Manibusan 14, Flores 6, Reyes 3, Cho 2.

IT&E 41 — Jerlyn Castillo 11, Garon 8, Pena 6, Hemley 6, Ocampo 4, Jeraldine Castillo 3, Lumabi 3.

Scoring by halves: 28-22, 42-41.

9

From Page 28

pected to meet next month to select its officers.

The board will have their hands full as they will decide on matters related to NMSA and its member federations' participation in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap and the preparation for the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.

Meanwhile, White, in the same NMSA meeting last week, reported that the group sent Nick Gross to Vanuatu during the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. Gross, who will be in charge of the Athletes Village when Saipan hosts the 2021

6

From Page 28

Manila, according to Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta.

"Our players will be busy this year and we're thankful for these opportunities to play in international tournaments, as we can only gauge the improvement of our players if they compete with teams outside Saipan," Zapanta said.

Training sessions for some of the teams getting ready for these international events have resumed last week. Members of the CNMI Women's National Team pool returned to practice last Tuesday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field, while the girls

Pacific Mini Games, observed the operation and management of the Athletes Village in Port Vila on the duration of the Mini Games from Dec. 4 to 15.

White also acknowledged the performance of weightlifter Angel San Nicolas in Vanuatu, as his bronze medal win in the clean and jerk (94-kilogram division) averted the CNMI's medal-less campaign in the quadrennial meet.

With San Nicolas making it to the podium, the NMSA head renewed the call to initiate talks on providing incentives to CNMI athletes that won medals for the Commonwealth in international competitions.

U13 and U15 pools reported back for their training sessions starting last Wednesday, also at the FMS pitch.

NMIFA technical director and CNMI men's team head coach Michiteru Mita is expected to return to Saipan this week and gather back his boys to prepare for the various competitions ahead.

As for local events, the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League will be held early next month, while the association will be coordinating first with the Public School System and the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools before coming out with the schedule for the NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League's middle and high school divisions.

2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League 1st Round

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The Lower Base Warriors' John Benavente goes for a reverse layup against two POI Aviation defenders during their first round game in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Saipan Tribune's Hark Galarion takes off for a layup.



Saipan Tribune's Lester Lapuz pulls up for a point-blank shot.



Shirley's Coffee Shop's Seth Alonzo shoots in front of four Saipan Tribune players.



POI Aviations' Lester Pascual takes an off-balance shot.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and POI Aviation players fight for the loose ball.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Krisgel Arreza, third left, and Shirley's Coffee Shop's Isaiah Bordon, second left, battle for the rebound.



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Lerio Pagarao, center, drives against POI Aviation's Richard Kim, left.



Richardson's
layup lifts Heat
past Jazz, 103-102

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Brees, Saints
survive Panthers'
late charge

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan Vegas Elite ends skid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas Elite finally broke into the win column in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament after slipping past Saipan Vegas Extreme, 58-57, yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Duncan Laxa made baskets in streaks in the closing minutes of the second half, while Kent Ogasawara and Oldie Roligat also scored in the homestretch to give Saipan Vegas Elite its first victory in four games. Saipan

Vegas Extreme is still winless after four matches to remain at the bottom of the team standings in the eight-squad boys division.

Laxa had 7 straight points in the second half and finished with a game-high 17 markers. Ogasawara added 9, including Saipan Vegas Elite's

last field goal, while Roligat made a free throw to go with his one basket. Timmy Pangelinan, Traven Quitugua, Alam Olopai, and Gregory Deleon Guerrero combined for 20 more points for Saipan Vegas Elite.

In the girls division's first
See SAIPAN on Page 26

6 int'l events await CNMI soccer players



GFA PHOTO
The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's Chris Aninzo catches the ball during their game against the Guam All-Stars in last year's Marianas Cup at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's national teams will be busy as usual as they are lined up to participate in various international tournaments this year.



In the youth division, the Commonwealth's U13 squad will be competing in an East Asian Football Federation-organized tournament with the date and venue to be announced later. For the CNMI's girls U16 crew, they will be joining the Asian Football Confederation Girls U16 Championship 2019 Qualifiers in September, while their U19 counterparts will see action in the AFC Women's U19 Championships 2019 Qualifi-

ers in October.

The EAFF E1 Tournament will take place, too this year with the CNMI expected to field both its men's and women's national teams. Mongolia has expressed an interest in hosting the competition, but no final decision on the venue and date of the tournament has been made.

The Commonwealth will also participate in the Marianas Cup with the venue yet to be determined. Guam and the CNMI usually alternate in hosting the unique event with the former holding the competition at its turf last year.

There is also a plan to send a boys U13 team for an international tournament in
See 6 on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Guine Borja, left, looks at her target first before going for a shot against a CTSI defender during their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

9 elected to NMSA board



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Marianas Sports Association members and officials check their notes before starting their monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Nine were elected to the Northern Marianas Sports Association board during the group's monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Long-time NMSA president Michael White was nominated and got the yes votes and will be joined on the board by tennis' Jeff Race, baseball's Rose Igitol, weightlifting's John Davis, paddling's Justin Andrew and Valerie Hofschneider, athletics' Robin Sapong, swimming's John Hirsh, and volleyball's Laurie Peterka. The board is ex-

See 9 on Page 26